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WEEKLY BULLETIN

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS



THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CCE
OCT 11 1949

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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 4, 1949

No. 40

5 EVENINGS OF ART — METROPOLITAN ART ASSOCIATION

In entering another season, The Metropolitan Art Association brings to Detroit distinguished speakers in the field of art and architecture. Mr. Hawkins Ferry, President of the Association, deserves the thanks of architects for the splendid program he has arranged. There are three architects on the Board and the first two lectures of the approaching series are by architects. We believe that the program warrants the full support of the architectural profession. The two architectural lectures are coordinated with The Detroit Institute of Art's Exhibit, "For Modern Living."

This year the Association's program of five lectures by distinguished authorities will, as in previous years, bring to Detroit interesting news of experimentation and pioneering in many fields of contemporary art. The first two lectures on modern architecture are designed to coordinate with the exhibition of contemporary design in home furnishing and objects—"For Modern Living"—being held September 11 to November 20 at the Institute of Arts. A talk on the latest trends in photography will be given in connection with the February Photographic Salon. Another evening will be devoted to the relationship of the art critic to the public; while another will deal with abstract design as applied to painting, photography, and commercial art.

Museum of Modern Art.

"ARE Our Houses Modern?"—Serge Chermayeff, Wednesday, November 2, 1949, at 8:30 P.M.

Although primarily an architect, Serge Chermayeff is also noted as an industrial designer and a city planner. A Russian by birth, he received his training in England and on the Continent. His architectural practice began in England in 1930; and from 1933 to 1936 he was a partner of Erich Mendelsohn. From 1937 to 1941 he practiced independently in England and California and recently in New York City. He was Chairman of the Department of Design of Brooklyn College from 1942 to 1946 and has been President of the

Institute of Design in Chicago since 1946.



MR. BREUER

MARCEL BREUER, noted native of Hungary, was teacher at the Harvard School of Design. Since 1945 he has practiced architecture in New York City.

He was a partner in the firm of Walter Gropius & Marcel Breuer, of New Haven, Conn., is a member of The American Institute of Architects.

His lecture, October 12, will be on "Designing the Modern House."

(Continued on Next Page)

1949-50 SEASON

"Designing the Modern House"—Marcel Breuer, Wednesday, October 12, 1949 at 8:30 P.M.

Born in Hungary, Marcel Breuer studied at the famous Bauhaus School in Germany, soon becoming noted as an architect and furniture designer. In 1925 he designed the first chair made entirely of chromium plated tubular steel. Thereafter he practiced architecture in Germany, Switzerland, and England. During this time he designed furniture in aluminum and plywood. From 1937 to 1945 he taught at the Harvard School of Design. Concurrently, he was the architectural partner of Walter Gropius. Since 1945 he has been practicing in New York City, where this year he was asked to build a demonstration house in the garden of the

Mail in this request today so that you will not miss one of these interesting 5 Evenings of Art.

The Metropolitan Art Association
c/o The Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit 2, Michigan

Gentlemen:

Please send me a season member's admission card for the 1949-50 Series of 5 Evenings of Art. I am enclosing \$3.00 herewith.

Name _____

Address _____

General admission without season ticket—\$1.00 per lecture, including tax.
Season admission for five lectures—\$3.00, including tax.

Please make check or money order payable to the Metropolitan Art Association. Season admission tickets are transferable to your friends for any of the lectures, in the event you cannot attend. Students may obtain season tickets through their school offices for \$1.50, including tax. If this application is for a student ticket please check here ☐ and write school name here _____.

"The Art Critic and the Public"—Aline B. Louchheim, Wednesday, January 11, 1950, at 8:30 P.M.

A graduate of Vassar College with an M.A. from New York University, Mrs. Louchheim was for two years Managing Editor of "Art News" and has been Associate Art Editor and Critic of the New York Times since 1947. She has lectured frequently and has written articles for "Mademoiselle", "House Beautiful", etc. She is the author of "5,000 Years of Art, A Pictorial History of Art".

"The Contemporary Photographer's World"—Arthur Siegel, Wednesday, February 22, 1950, at 8:30 P.M.

Trained under Moholy-Nagy at the Institute of Design in Chicago, Arthur Siegel is today one of the leading experimental photographers in the United States. Before the war he taught photography and did experimental and commercial work in Detroit, where he was the local photographic representative for Life Magazine. During the war he worked with the O.W.I. in Washington. From 1945 to 1949 he was the head of the Photography Department of the Institute of Design in Chicago. He has lectured and held one-man shows throughout the country. In 1948 an exhibit of his photographs was given in London, England.

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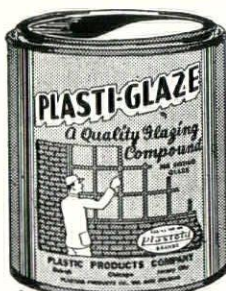
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"Education of Vision"—Gyorgy Kepes, Wednesday, March 15, 1950, at 8:30 P.M.

Searching for a new and more functional vocabulary for the visual arts, Gyorgy Kepes has divided his time between painting, teaching, and experimentation with motion pictures and commercial design. A native of Hungary, he has worked in Austria, Germany, England, and for the last twelve years in the United States. In 1944 he wrote "Language of Vision" to illustrate his theories. His work has been exhibited widely in Europe and this country. For six years he was associated with the Institute of Design in Chicago as head of the Light and Color Departments. At present he is teaching at M.I.T.



MISS HELEN L. FASSETT, of the office of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects & Engineers, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Art Association, Chairman of its Architects Division. She is actively interested in obtaining the architects' support of the Association.

She has organized a little group of volunteers to sell season tickets.

Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Art Association, 1949-50 Season.

Hawkins Ferry, Chairman; Claire Reeve, Secretary-Treasurer; William A. Bostick, Vice-Chairman; Virginia Harriman, Membership Chairman; Donald Thrall, Publicity Chairman; Marion H. Bemis, Helen L. Fassett, Wayne Claxton, Helen J. Copley, Florence Davies, Alexander Girard, Talmage C. Hughes, Wallace Mitchell, Sarkis Sarkisian, Dr. Ernst Scheyer, Alden Smith.

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6 LOCAL BRANCHES IN DETROIT

BULLETIN:

Our stay in Detroit was so occupied that I am afraid that I personally saw very little of you while I was there.

I am sure that you will be glad to know that all our team greatly enjoyed our stay there and also that they gained a lot of very helpful and useful information.

May I ask you to carry to your president, Mr. David H. Williams, Jr., and to all the members of your Chapter our grateful thanks. —Michael T. Waterhouse, President, R.I.B.A.

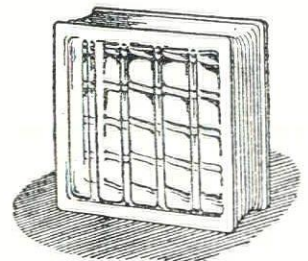
BULLETIN:

On Saturday, September 3, 1949, the United Kingdom Building Trades Team No. 5 sailed for England on the S.S. Queen Elizabeth. Their expressions, regarding the cooperation received from you and your associates in Detroit definitely establish that your efforts on their behalf were valuable and appreciated.

We thank you for your great help in making the program a success. The gratitude of the team and the E.C.A. Staff, plus the realization that you have made a real contribution to the restoration of world stability must be compensation for the generous efforts we know you put forth.

When the final report is made available a copy will be sent to you. Until then, believe me to be most grateful. —William L. Padgett, Project Director.

ESTIMATES, QUANTITY SURVEYS for architects. Long experience in leading Detroit offices—WALTER L. CONNELLY, 1351 Maple Ave., Birmingham. Tel. 1430.



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LETTER FROM ARNOLD AGREE

Thank you so much for your kind letter. Since I wrote you last, we've completed our work at Fontainebleau and I'm now enjoying the sights of Europe, and especially the architecture. Though we'll never have occasion to build a Renaissance Chateau or a Romanesque Cathedral, it's an incomparably fascinating experience to visit such places in their original settings and authentic modes.

Our course at Fontainebleau ended on a modern note: "What are the contemporary French architects doing?" We heard lectures and visited the work of many of the outstanding men here such as Lods, Lursot, Perret and Le Corbusier. We saw the reconstruction work of the war-damaged areas at Rouen, Le Havre and Caen, as well as many of the outstanding pre-war buildings like M. Perret's church at Raincy, the Swiss

pavillion at Cite Universite, Paris, by Le Corbusier and the Open-Air school for tuberculous children at Suresnes, by M. Lods. I was impressed by the genius of these men working in a place nearly bankrupt by the war, most production and technical facilities non-existent, materials unavailable, thousands homeless, and in spite of all these difficulties, creating very admirable buildings at a maximum of aesthetic effect for a minimum of cost. Since steel is almost unavailable, they use ferro-concrete in the most daring structural ways and precast concrete units for wall panels. By long sighted planning, site prefabrication, standard pieces and simple treatments, they've been able to achieve most remarkable results.

I visited Marseilles yesterday to see a very remarkable piece of work, by Le Corbusier, under construction. It's a large self-contained community complete with all facilities in one large building. The scheme is very ingenious, but far too complicated to try to explain without numerous drawings. Since the work has been published in the French periodicals, I shall bring these with me for the interest of any local people desiring to learn more about the work. Suffice it to say, it's a very remarkable job, both in conception and fabrication.

When I attempted to enter the site, I was informed that no visitors were permitted that day since M. Le Corbusier was inspecting the work. I succeeded in explaining that I had travelled far to see this work, must return to America shortly, etc. and etc., all in "broken French." I finally gained admittance, was shown the complete job, and ended by dining with M. Le Corbusier and his guest, M. Picasso, the noted modern artist. Needless to say, I'm quite thrilled by the experience.

I'm off to visit the old and new in Italy tomorrow and hope to be able to relate my experiences there upon my return in October.

Sincerest regards and best wishes
A. Arnold Agree

Juan-les-Pins, Riviera, France

P.S. I would be only too happy to comply with your request for Mrs. Nina Palmer, but it happens that uncancelled foreign stamps are about 1/2 cheaper in America than at the post offices here, curiously enough. They have made some sort of reciprocal agreement whereby stamps for collectors, i.e. not used for postal charges, can be shipped out of the country at a special price. I can buy perfectly good U.S. stamps here for about 75c on the dollar—if they didn't check at the customs! Would you be so kind as to forward this information? Thank you.

—A.A.A.

W. GLASSON COOMBE, 412 Calvin Theatre Building, Dearborn, Michigan, was admitted to membership in The American Institute of Architects and its Detroit Chapter on September 20, 1949.

Mr. Coombe was born in Michigan, educated in Detroit schools and at the University of Michigan. After working in various Detroit and Dearborn offices, he became registered, by examination, to practice architecture in Michigan in 1948. Since that time he has maintained his own office in Dearborn.

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Builders & Traders

Edited by E. J. Brunner, Secty.-Mgr.,
Builders & Traders Exchange of Detroit

ADVERTISING "LITERATURE"

From the Bulletin of the Indiana Society of Architects, A.I.A.

Do any of you, by any peculiar whimsy, read the literature or any part of it, which is written in connection with the advertisements appearing in the architectural magazines? We wonder if a more common procedure isn't to thumb carefully these ads through, hesitate when an attractive picture appears, look at it more carefully if it offers some exciting detail, then note that it was designed by Skidmore, Owens, and Merrill, and pass on. Well if nothing else, we are common. This has been our fashion of not reading the ads. In the thought that we might be missing something, we carted home a recent issue of an architectural magazine for the purpose of really reading the ads. The following examples and comments result.

First there is the interesting general-

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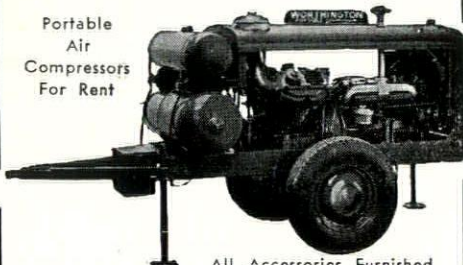
BRAUN LUMBER CO. — TO. 8-0320
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ization that many manufacturers are placing the emphasis on labor-saving devices first and secondly material-saving devices. There were end-matched sheathing, a sash balance and weather-strip combined, unit locks, metal curtain walls backed by 4" of light weight concrete, and many others, singing the same song. It is to be assumed that these manufacturers, alive to the needs of the market, are attacking the spots where the cost is most serious. It arouses a question. Are the designers of buildings giving all the attention they should to labor-saving and material-saving methods, or are we just using the "same old details?"

Then other producers sounded the horn about the irresistible attraction their products have for buyers and clients. For instance, did you know that metal walls and partitions put clients in a buying mood? Just surround a guy with metal and sell him anything. "Selelevision moves goods." Reading the ads does things to your vocabulary. Just put the snappy old "Selevison" in your store and watch the counters swept clean. And, odd as it may seem, there are psychological advantages to be found in steel windows. Steel windows won't exactly mesmerize your client, but they sure make him dizzy.

Some of the boys actually become lyrical and others philosophical in presenting their goods. Then occasionally there's a somber note. One ad sings thus:—"For delightful decor, use—." And of course, the trade name which filled in the above blank commences with D. Clever? Another advises us that, "Design is much more than lines and planes—it is materials, depth, texture, pattern and color." Good old "functional design" was repeated often. Someone should tell the ad writers that this has become hackneyed. The architect now uses, with a cultural lift of the brows, the phrase, "Space definition." That floors the client, and permits the A. to eliminate doors and even partitions. All he does is put a fancy name on his plans, for a given bit of square footage. The somber note is struck by the folks promoting jail, and prison, and asylum equipment, and many of the hospital equipment ads. I do object to the hospital ads showing an intimate photo of an operation in process. I'm squeamish.

Some ads are just naive. We cite the one which claimed that their plumbing fixtures were particularly selected for a certain hospital. The architects are simple, but not that simple. You may be sure fixtures were used because they were the fixtures of the low bidder meeting a given standard.

Some startle and some intrigue. There was the eye-opener which exclaimed, "Think Big." And do you know what they were talking about? No, you don't unless you read it. They were talking about big sheets of some thing or other. Our curiosity was aroused by the term "separable hinges." Do

you know what they are? Again, no.

There were also some astonishing figures. Did you know that a piece of glass could be bent 2 million times without a sign of a crack? And some crazy nut counted 108,900 "sound traps" in a room fifteen feet square.

Finally we should include the intimate little ad which used with pride the name of D. A. Bohlen & Son, Architects. That was the nicest ad I read.

So much for advertising. It all might serve to revitalize the subject of advertising in THE BULLETIN. Would it add or subtract from reader interest? We might insert cute little paragraphs here and there that would mention advertisers and not offend in a literary or truth-giving fashion. Or we might insert a separate sheet and call it The Advertisers and thus avoid By-laws technicalities. Or do you all agree with Merritt Harrison that advertising would smear our fair sheet? We don't care one way or the other. We do care for correspondence which helps fill up this sheet.

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THE AMERICAN
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1946 OCT 18 PM 9:02
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WEEKLY BULLETIN

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The American Institute of Architects

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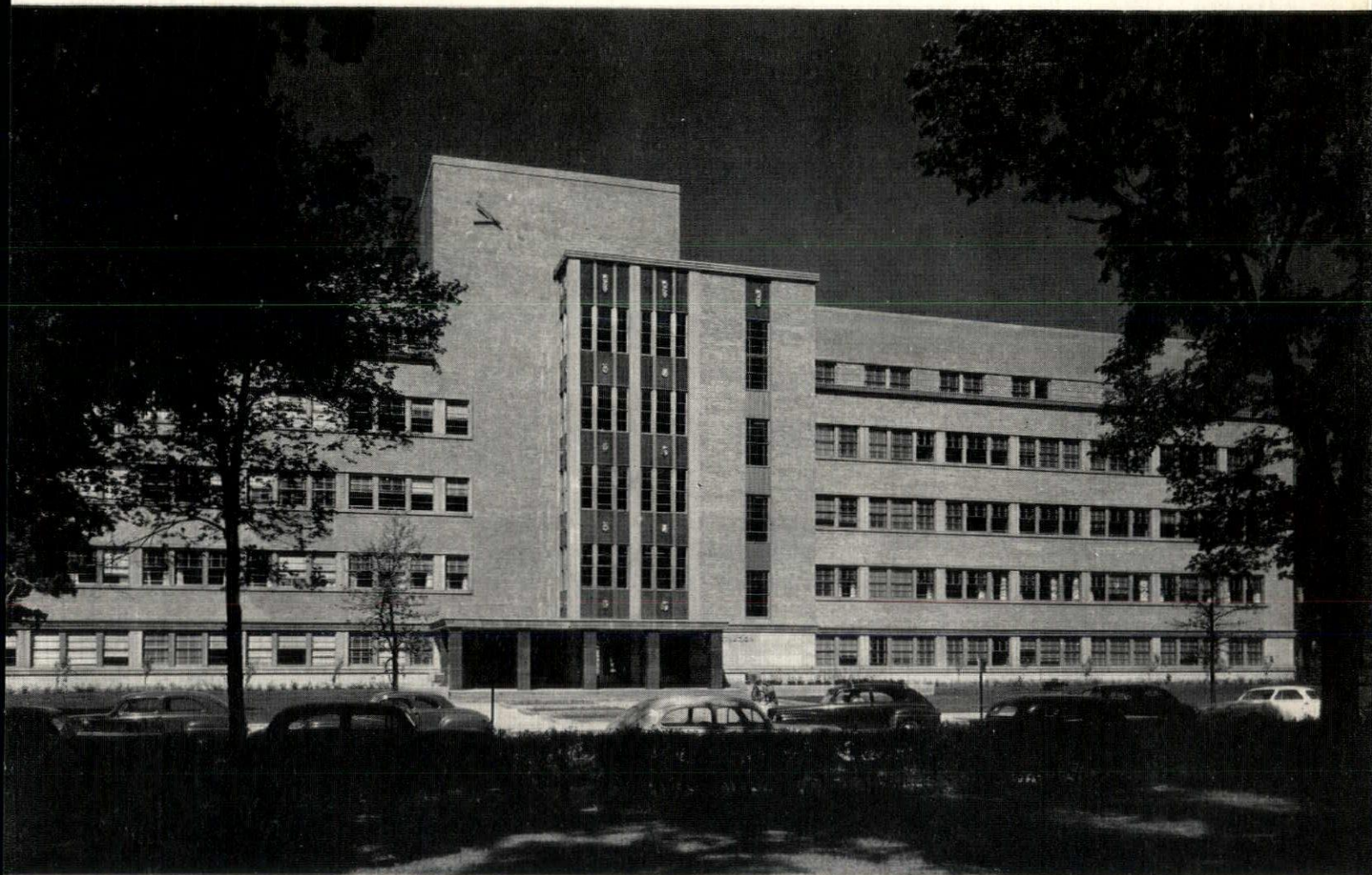
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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 11, 1949

No. 41



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

HARLEY, ELLINGTON AND DAY, INC. ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

We were very proud to have worked with the general contractor and architect in furnishing the cabinets and millwork on the Administration Building for the University of Michigan, as we consider this one of the outstanding buildings built in recent years. May Harley, Ellington & Day be privileged to design more buildings like this.

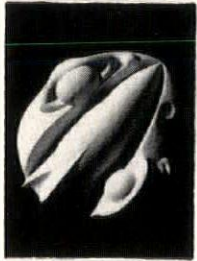
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Flexibility—KEYNOTES NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The new building for administration at the University of Michigan has no class rooms whatever and yet it has added a great many classrooms to the facilities of the university. Its construction has released urgently needed floor space in a score of widely separated buildings on the campus and has centralized administrative functions under one roof.

The problems of administration of educational institutions as large as Michigan are tremendously complex. In addition to the standard business operations of a hundred million dollar

corporation, it must always consider the serious responsibilities imposed by the fact that it is an educational institution. Michigan has always remembered that it exists for its students and must accommodate itself to their ever changing needs. Flexibility of interior was therefore a prerequisite in planning, and in truth changes were being made in office allocations continuously during construction.

The task of blocking out the program for this building was in itself a major project, consultations with administrative heads, surveys of existing facil-

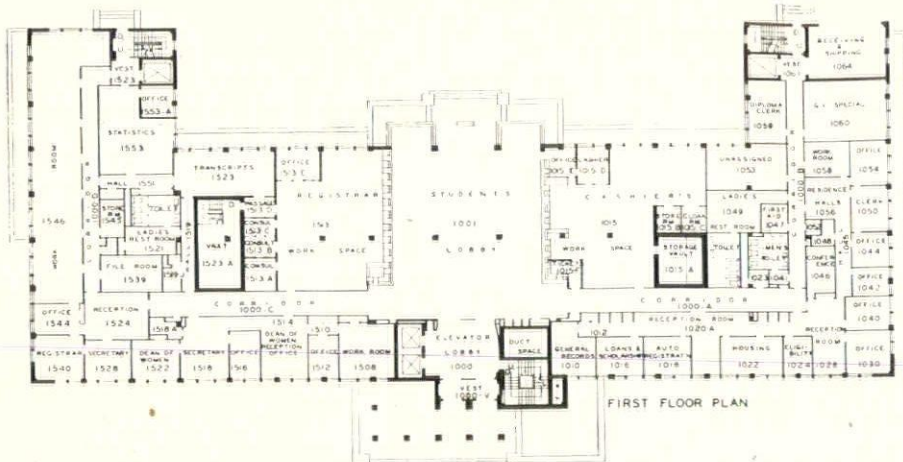
By MALCOLM RODERICK STIRTON

Mr. Stirton graduated from University of Michigan, 1932; holder of George G. Booth Travelling Fellowship with travel & study in Europe for that year.

Registered as Architect in Michigan, 1934; on staff of Harley, Ellington & Day, Inc. since, now being vice-president in charge of architectural design.

Member A.I.A., M.S.A., and E.S.D.





are two high speed passenger elevators at the west entrance and one service elevator in each of the extensions of the U. The north extension has also an enclosed receiving dock at grade which has already demonstrated its ability and necessity for efficient operation of the building. Parking space for approximately 150 cars has been provided at the east entrance and the approaches to the building integrated

ities and determination of possible future needs involved many hours of analytical study. This survey was ably handled and directed by Mr. Walter M. Roth, plant superintendent, and Mr. Lynn W. Fry, supervising architect, at the university and the program, presented in graphic space requirements, formed the basic planning guide. The soundness of this survey was shown by the fact that constant readjustments and additions of space requirements did not materially alter its basic principles. The final sifting of requirements and decisions as to space allocations were firmly and conscientiously determined by the Board of Regents and the administrative officers of the university.

The building has a U shaped plan fac-



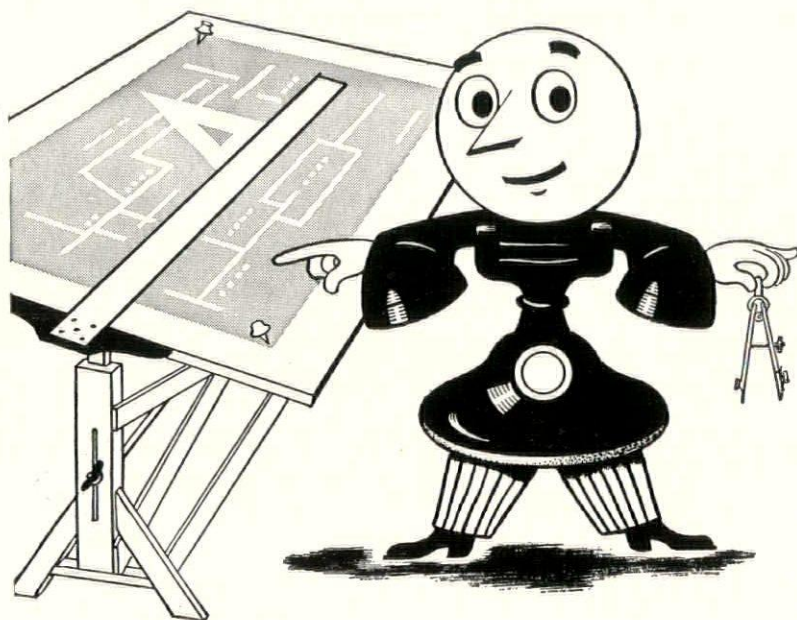
'DREAM OF THE YOUNG GIRL'
(ONE OF THE SCULPTURAL GROUPS BESIDE MAIN ENTRANCE)

ing west on State Street and centered on Jefferson Avenue, which has now been closed off by this building. There

with it.

The exterior is of brick with stone trim around continuous aluminum sash.

New U. of M. Building Features Built-In Telephone Conduit



MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

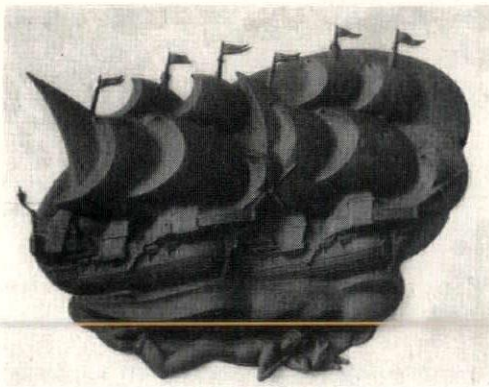
COMplete TELEPHONE CONVENIENCE was planned in advance for the new University of Michigan Administration Building, described in this issue of the Weekly Bulletin.

University building engineers and their architects, in collaboration with Michigan Bell engineers, provided for underfloor conduit and adequate telephone outlets in the plans.

The result? Telephones can be installed exactly where wanted. They can be relocated as needs change or as departments are moved, without tearing up flooring or breaking through plaster. Conduit and telephone outlets will mean savings to the University in the future.

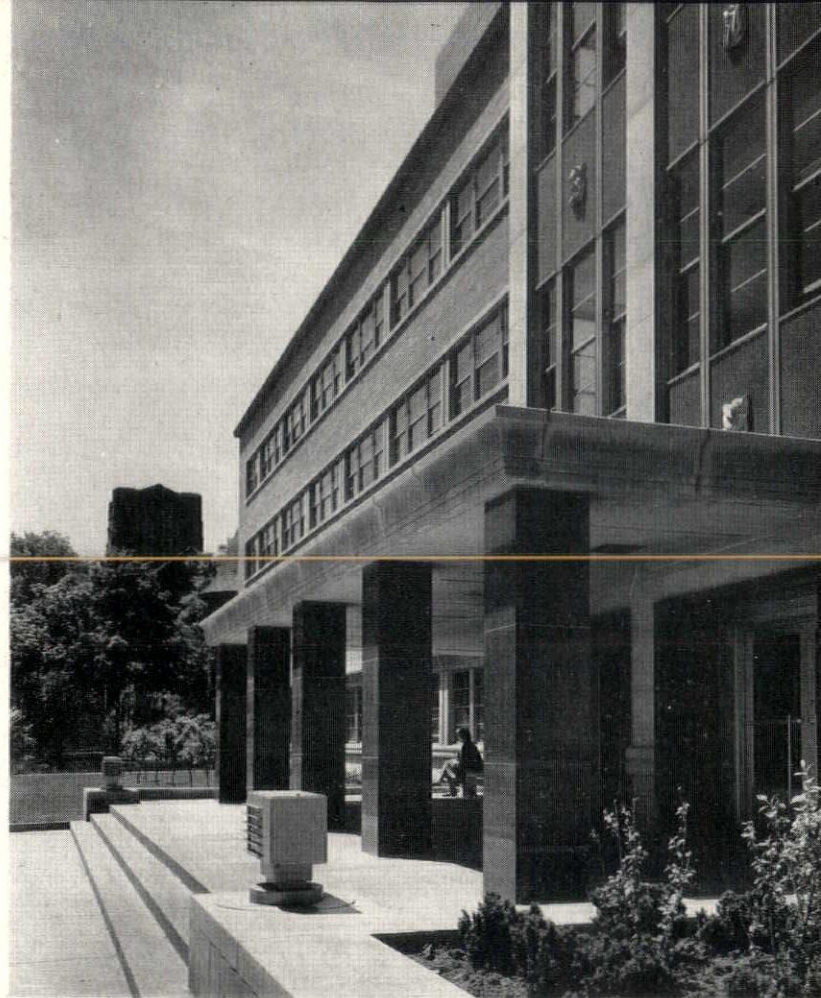
We shall be glad to co-operate in planning telephone wiring facilities for any building. In Detroit, call Woodward 3-9900, extension 2624 and ask to have a telephone engineer visit your office. Elsewhere, call the local telephone business office.

DETAIL OF EAST ELEVATION



'DREAM OF THE YOUNG MAN'

This arrangement provides good light and eliminates the maintenance costs of exterior painting. The tower treatment at the west entrance is the result of the direct expression of the elevator shaft and machine room. The unsymmetrical balance thus achieved permitted the off center location of the fifth floor radio studios. Here it was desirable to place the studios themselves as far as possible from the noise



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W. S. LONG, Sec.-Treas.



'MUSICIANS'

of the elevator machines.

Although the building is directly utilitarian, it has real cultural responsibility as must any building on a university campus. Marshall Fredericks, as sculptor, has expressed that thought in the bronze, aluminum and stone bas reliefs at focal points on the building. These designs are for the students and not stereotyped representations of clas-

sic education.

In planning the building, considerable attention was given to the relation of the building to planted areas and provisions were made for such areas. The university has responded splendidly and the landscaping scheme now installed will do much to integrate the building into campus life.

Although planned without classrooms, the building has a constant procession

ient for regular registrations which must be handled in the gymnasiums.

Because the radio studios, located on the fifth and top floors, are active after the functions of the lower floors have ceased, it was considered desirable to provide access to radio without throwing open the entire building. This was achieved by the introduction of an elevator and stair lobby on each floor which could be locked off from each



WEST ELEVATION

MARSHALL FREDERICKS
SCULPTOR

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LINCOLN 2-9300

of students through its doors. Certain offices, such as registrar, cashier, dean of students and director of residence halls, exist primarily for direct student contact. It was natural to locate these on the first floor with a central lobby large enough to accommodate the inevitable lines forming at the cashier's or registrar's windows. Late registration only is accommodated here as the entire first floor would not be suffic-

floor. On the first floor this lobby is utilized for directory boards and student notices.

On the second floor, the elevator lobby has been expanded to provide an ample reception room for the business office of the university. This entire space can be locked off to maintain the limited access required during evening broadcasting hours.

Besides the large offices such as ac-

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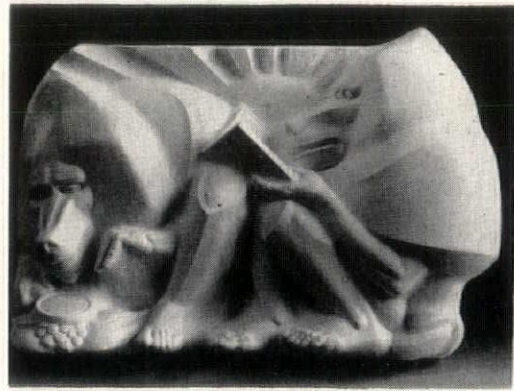
TELEPHONE 2-1711



DETAIL OF WEST ELEVATION

counting, purchasing, etc., required by the business office, the second floor houses the Regents' Room, the office of the president, and other officers of the university. A secondary reception room has been provided for these officers to which all are accessible. Secondary circulation by-passing the main reception room permits constant communication throughout the entire floor without crossing public space.

Photo murals of representative campus buildings and an overall view of the campus are displayed on the curved wall of the main reception room.



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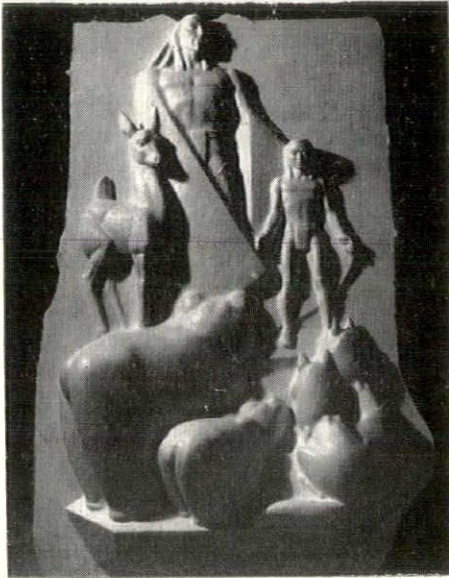
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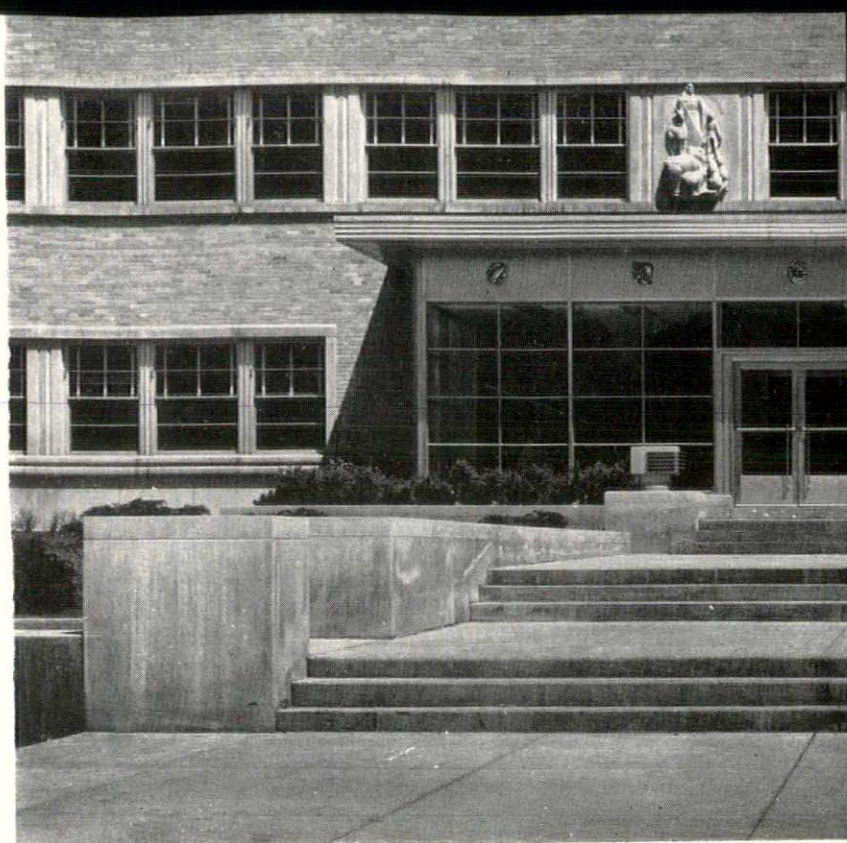
' H I A W A T H A '

This reception room might be termed the visitors' approach to the university and it is here that general information and direction is available.

The president's office and the regents' meeting room are paneled in walnut. These two rooms are the only wood paneled rooms in the building

and were chosen for this treatment because of their definite importance. These two rooms establish the dignity and importance of the university for

the people of the State of Michigan. The table in the Regents' room was especially designed to accommodate the members of the board and the appointed



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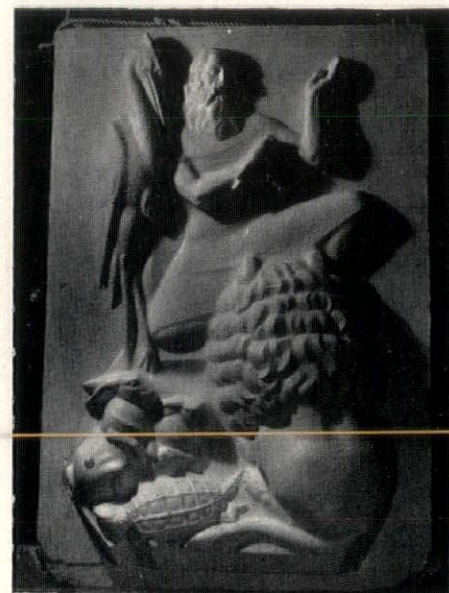
WEST ENTRANCE

officers of the university. Its shape permits a direct view for all as it tapers from 10 feet to 6 feet in its 22 foot length.

The furnishings of these offices are the work of Hans Knoll Associates, Inc., and their fresh contemporary character is in harmony with the building. The third floor has additional offices, such as a general secretarial pool for

professors on the campus who have no secretaries, the personnel department, bureau of appointments, where industry can screen applicants for positions, and other offices of similar character.

The University of Michigan has a large program of extension courses designed to assist students and adults not in residence. This department is accommodated on the fourth floor of the



'AESOP'

new building and includes visual education, correspondence study, business machines and administration of the extension departments located in other cities of Michigan.

The visual education facilities are

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complete for the first time in the department's history. Now it is possible to choose directly any of the thousands of educational films and slides and to verify one's choice in the screening room. This room is air conditioned and has provision for 84 seats with inclined floor and complete screen and projection facilities. Naturally the room has additional uses, such as a meeting room for deans or department heads.

The radio studios on the fifth floor are actually a part of the extension service as the programs are designed for adult education in Michigan. These studios embody the latest improvement

in broadcasting technique and will be headquarters for the university's proposed chain of frequency modulation studios scattered throughout Michigan. The FM transmitter is located just outside Ann Arbor.

The studios are air conditioned as they are without windows and planned for economical operation by means of double duty control rooms. Thus one control room can handle one or more studios if necessary. Three of the four control rooms have direct visual contact with each other. The fourth control room is for the conference type studio directly visible from the entrance lob-

by. This permits spectator appreciation and establishes the presence of the radio studio.

The studios are of floating construction and completely isolated from the building structure. Walls and ceilings avoid parallel planes and proper amount of high and low frequency absorption are distributed around the walls. To avoid the disturbing hum of the fluorescent lights, their reactors have been placed in remote control cabinets outside of the studios.

The first requirement of design in a building housing such a variety of office requirements is flexibility. Any

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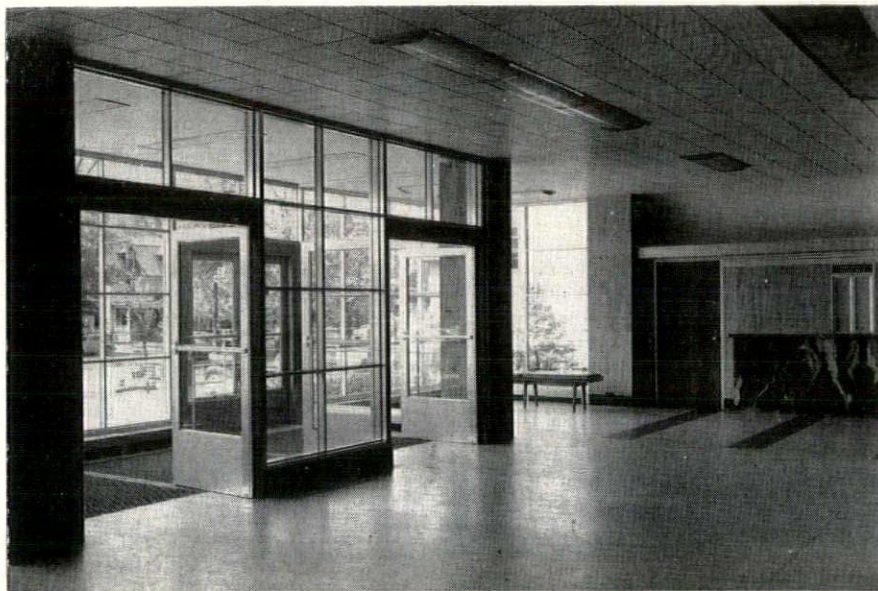
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STUDENTS' LOBBY DETAIL

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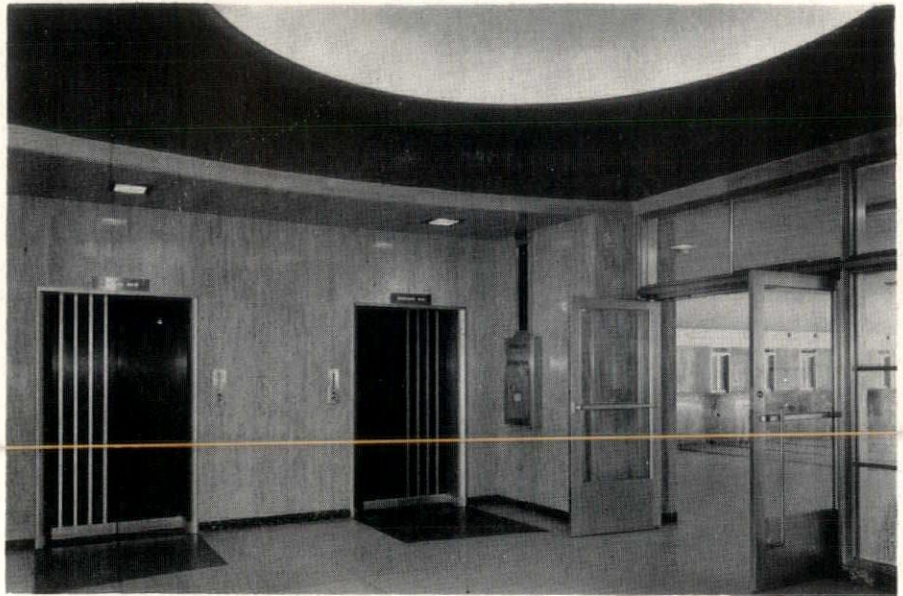
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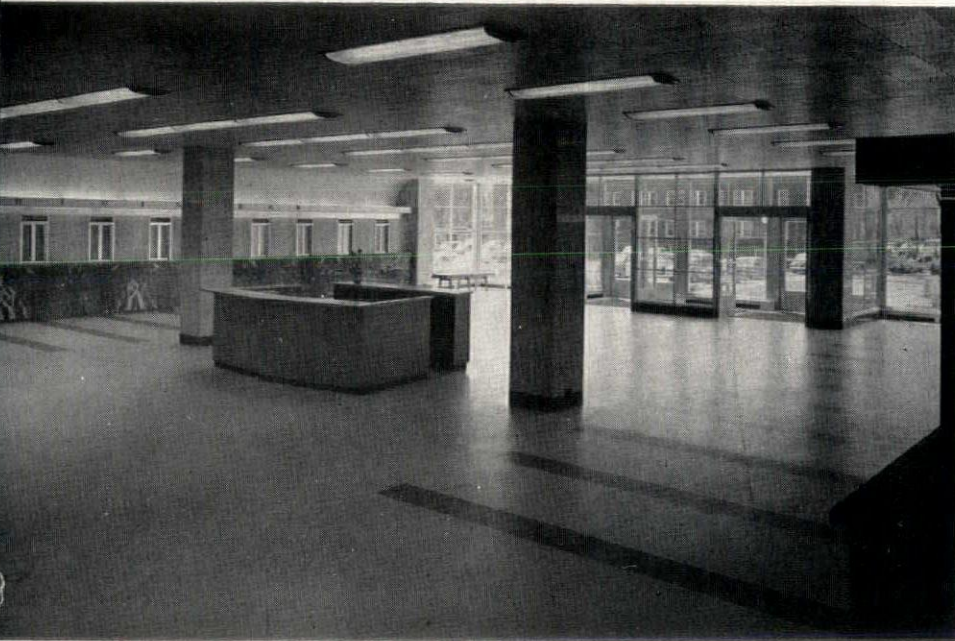
Detroit 8, Michigan

department should be able to grow or to decrease as future needs develop. For this reason the building is designed on a 5 foot module. This means that partitions may be erected any place along the outside wall to provide offices of 5 foot units, of 10 feet, 15 feet, 20 feet and so on without interfering with window spacing.

Interior flexibility has been made possible by clear spanning the building with 45 foot steel trusses so that no columns will interfere with new room planning. Ventilation, piping for convector radiators and wiring are all carried in this truss space with access



ELEVATOR LOBBY, FIRST FLOOR



STUDENTS' LOBBY, LOOKING WEST

panels where necessary.

Adequate and well equipped janitors' closets with tile floors and walls are provided on each floor. The university believes that if these closets are right to begin with, they will stay clean and make general cleaning more efficient.

As part of this general attitude of easy and economical maintenance, aluminum window stools are continuous at each window group. The grills opening required for the convector is simply stamped in the top. Asphalt tile floors and acoustical ceilings are typical finishes except for the terrazzo on the first floor.

LA. 7-5050

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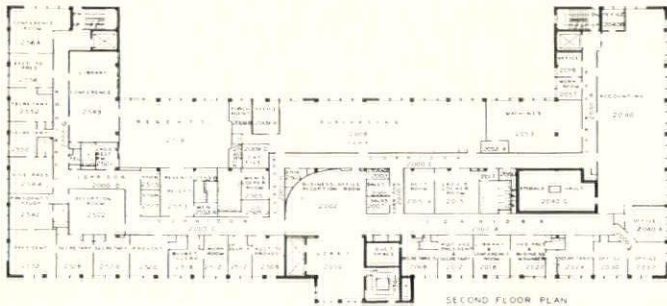
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SECOND FLOOR LOBBY



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

To reduce the constant repainting required in public corridors, wainscots of marble or clear glazed tile keep them clean and attractive. Toilet rooms are clear glazed tile with flush metal partitions and ceramic mosaic tile floors.

To insure flexibility in floor outlets for telephone and electrically operated equipment, a cellular steel floor was specified. This type of floor permits outlet locations any place in the build-

ing within 6 inches of the exact desired and is ideally suited to building.

The cost of the building \$2,100,000 has indicated that the efficiency and flexibility of the plan have been achieved without extra cost. Ease of operation and maintenance should follow as a result.

Great credit must be given to the administration of the university

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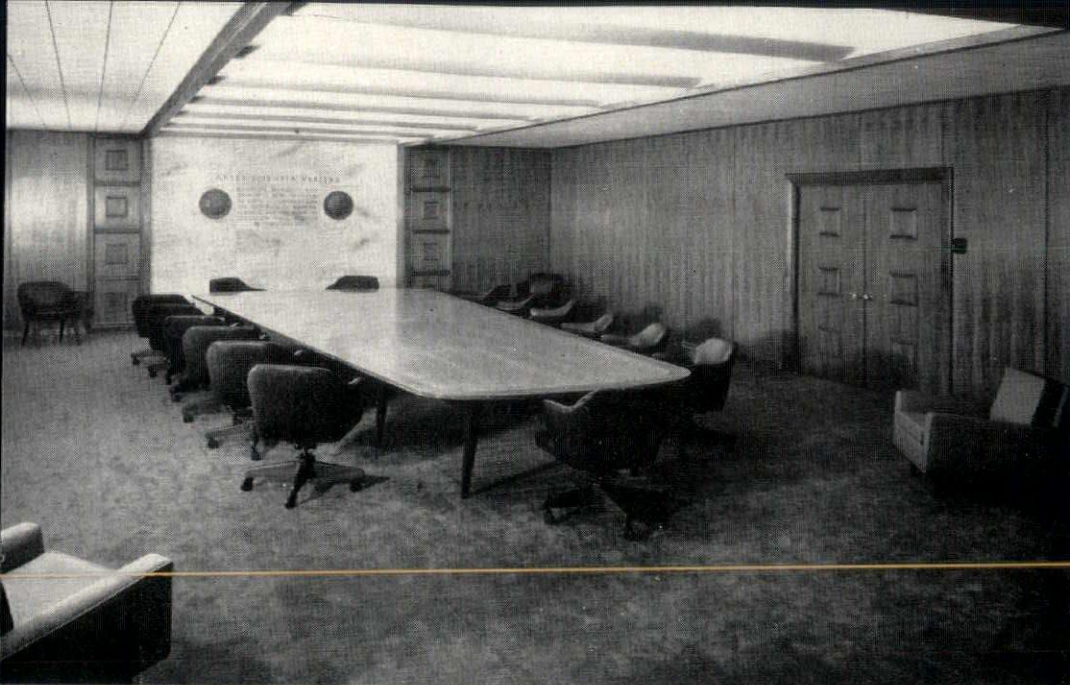
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REGENTS' MEETING ROOM

PHOTO CREDITS

Exterior and Interior Views by
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'God, Man, Administration,
Hiawatha & Aesop' by
LOUELLA SCHROEDER

'Musicians, Scientists & Dream
of Young Man' by
HARVEY CROZE

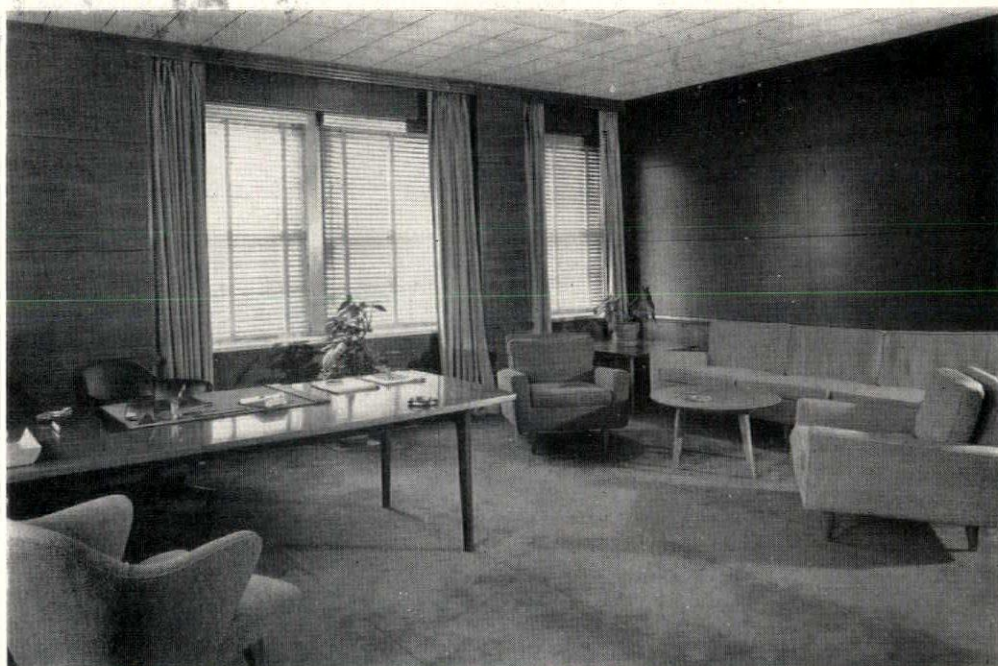
'Dream of Young Girl' by
ARNOLD STUDIOS



'ADMINISTRATION'

acceptance and sponsorship of these innovations in planning and construction. It is hard to realize now how difficult their job must have been with decentralized operation and inadequate space.

The new Administration Building will eliminate many of their former problems and provide the proper facilities for this important and complex direction of the activities of over 20,000



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A. LEONE SPEAKS ON PLANNING CAPITOL BUILDINGS

On September 21, Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. members were privileged to hear Amedeo Leone, Vice-President of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers, speak on the planning and design of the Capitol Office Building Group, at Lansing, which that firm had been commissioned to study and recommend.

The meeting was one of the best the Chapter has held in many months and a great deal of interest was shown. When Suren Pilafian, chairman of the Chapter's Program Committee approached the coming season of Chapter meetings he asked Professor Ralph Hammett, member of the Committee to send out a questionnaire to find out what kind of programs members favored. Returns showed that the kind of program Leone conducted was high on the list. Attendance proved this also.

Before the feature of the evening, President Dave Williams welcomed members and guests and reported briefly on the Board meeting which preceded the dinner. Dave stated that, because of his recent illness, he would not be a candidate for re-election at the Chapter's Annual Meeting which takes place on October 19. This is regrettable, as he has graced the office and his wise counsel is valuable to the Chapter.

At the Board meeting two nominating committees were named. According to Chapter by-laws, the President appoints one and the Board elects another. The President's committee consists of Henry F. Stanton, Chairman; William E. Kapp and C. William Palmer. The Board's committee has Charles B. McGrew as Chairman, Clair W. Ditchy and George Scrymgeour as members. These com-

DETROIT CHAPTER, A.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING

Rackham Building, Detroit, Wednesday, October 19, 1949

Board Meeting TUESDAY, Oct. 18, 4:00 P.M., at the Office of President David H. Williams, Jr.

DINNER, 6:30 P.M. — PROGRAM, 8:00 P.M.

This will be the Chapter's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Annual Reports of Officers and Committees will be limited to five minutes each, in order to allow time for discussion.

A special menu will be provided, a better dinner than usual, but the cost to corporate members will be only \$1.50, as heretofore. This is to encourage attendance. Hope you can come.

mittees are to prepare separate slates, and other nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

On invitation from President Alden Dow, of the Michigan Society of Architects, the Chapter will join with the Society in approaching the Detroit Board of Education on the matter of architects' fees. Committees from each group will work jointly.

The application for corporate membership, in The Institute and Detroit Chapter, of Robert Adolph Mattern was approved by the Chapter Board and forwarded to Washington with favorable recommendation. Mr. Mattern, a graduate of Yale and winner of the

Washington, D.C. Yale Club Scholarship, 1931-35, is now with the architectural firm of O. J. Munson, of Lansing.

Plans for the Annual Meeting of the Chapter include some special features—first of all an extra good dinner, partially subsidized, as usual, only better than usual. This brought up the old question of subsidizing dinners in general and the showing of paid-up membership cards. This is not a pleasant matter for the Chapter or for the mem-

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bers. It was begun because there were a good many who were delinquent in Chapter dues and yet the Chapter was subsidizing a portion of their dinner costs practically every month. This did not seem fair, so Neil Gabler, Treasurer at the time, suggested that only those who were paid for the current year be given the subsidy, and the Board agreed. We hope that members will keep their dues up so that this will be unnecessary.

In introducing the speaker of the evening, President Williams said that many of us had known Al since the early Atelier days, when he was at AK's, liked opera, the theatre and expensive shoes. He has gone a long way since then, Dave said, and has made a name for himself and is now Vice-President of one of the largest and best architectural firms in the country.

Al said that another hobby of his was cooking, but that he disliked warmed-over dishes. This subject might be in that category, he said, since it had been on the fire for the past five years. However, he promised to add a little spice to it to make it interesting, and he did just that. The speaker illustrated his lecture with slides and with the model of the project, at which members could catch a glance while he was talking. His lecture is being published in the Bulletin separately.

The slides showed the various steps in arriving at the final solution, and gave a very clear reason for the changes that came about during the study of the program. Also shown were diagrams of other state capitol developments. In a question-and-answer period many interesting aspects were brought out.

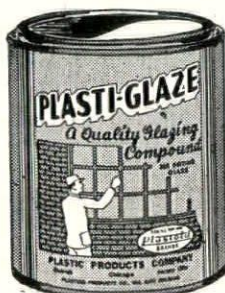
President Williams thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation, and the meeting was adjourned.

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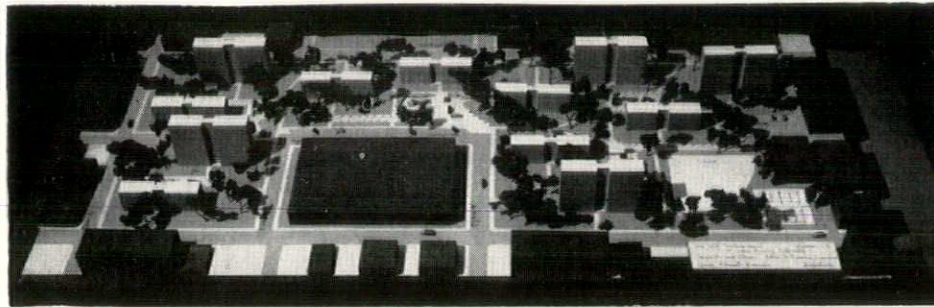


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A 704-unit housing project for the St. Louis Housing Authority is one of the first projects announced by the new firm consisting of Joseph Leinweber, Minoru Yamasaki and George Hellmuth, recently resigned members of the staff of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc.

Joseph Leinweber, Vice-President of the Detroit Chapter A.I.A. and Secretary of the Michigan Society of Architects, was formerly Vice President of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Minoru Yamasaki was chief designer and George Hellmuth, assistant to the President.

With the latter firm Leinweber and Yamasaki directed the design and development of a number of Detroit and Michigan buildings. The more recent of these are the new buildings for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company at Birmingham and Cadillac, the office building group at Lansing for the State of Michigan and the addition to the Federal Reserve Bank, for which the ground has just been broken on West Ford Street.

The new firm is operating offices in the International Building in St. Louis,

from which it expects to cover the general southwest area. A local office has just been opened at 940 Penobscot Building, to handle projects developing in the Detroit area.

The St. Louis housing project, illustrated here, will be built in a cleared-out downtown slum area. It is of interest since the buildings are of six and twelve story construction, a pattern used by the New York Housing Authority and more recently by the Chicago Authority. The multi-story arrangement permits more open area between buildings, land use by buildings for this project being 11 percent.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946, OF WEEKLY BULLETIN, MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS, published WEEKLY at DETROIT, MICH. for OCT. 4, 1949.

State of Michigan, County of Wayne, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Talmage C. Hughes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the Weekly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly, tri-weekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Name of Publisher, Talmage C. Hughes, Post Office Address, 120 Madison Ave., Detroit 26, Mich.

Name of Editor, Talmage C. Hughes, Post Office Address, 120 Madison Ave., Detroit 26, Mich.

Name of Business Manager, NONE.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Michigan Society of Architects, a Michigan non-profit corporation.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities, are: (If there are none, so state.)

NONE.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is 1700 (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

TALMAGE C. HUGHES, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of September, 1949.

(SEAL)

M. L. ENOS

(My commission expires Nov. 9, 1951)

PLEXIGLAS EXHIBIT

To be held at the Detroit Leland Hotel,
October 27 and 28

Practical methods of store modernization with acrylic plastic will be shown at The Detroit Leland Hotel, on October 27 and 28 when the Rohm & Haas Company will unveil a comprehensive traveling exhibit of Plexiglas applications in the retail merchandising field.

Called the "Plexiglas Store Show," the exhibit is a full-scale shop, complete with a backlighted storefront and featuring signs, showcases, wall cabinets, lighting fixtures, partitions, displays, and other merchandising aids. All are made of Plexiglas in its various transparent, translucent, corrugated, patterned and colored forms. Most of the applications to be shown are examples of actual installations made in stores throughout the country during the past year, while others are new developments from the company's design laboratory.

Admission to the exhibit will be by invitations distributed by Rohm & Haas and plastics fabricators throughout the

area. Admission cards may also be obtained by request to the Plastics Department, Rohm & Haas Company, Washington Square, Philadelphia.

The Detroit presentation of the "Plexiglas Store Show" is part of a three-month nation-wide tour that includes also Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Boston. The show is an enlarged version of an exhibit that provoked excited comment at the recent Store Modernization Show in New York City.

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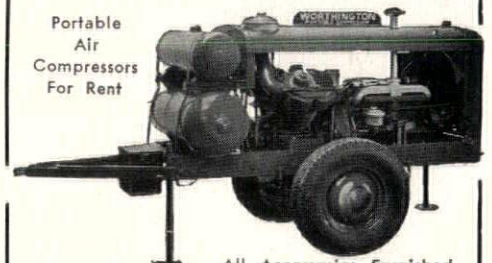
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Builders & Traders

Edited by E. J. Brunner, Secty.-Mgr.,
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The Producers' Council has endorsed the revised building code program proposed by the Building Officials Conference of America and the Building Officials Foundation. C. M. Mortensen, executive secretary of the Council, has announced.

"The program is designed to aid local building officials in modernizing their local codes so as to speed up the use of new cost-reducing building materials and techniques and lower the cost of revising local codes," Mr. Mortensen said.

"The revised program of the BOF calls for immediate completion of the Basic Building Code, with opportunity for public hearings for all interested manufacturers and distributors of building products and equipment prior to final publication of the code.

"The agreement also provides that the formulation of the Basic Code and the Abridged Code for small cities will be the functions of the BOCA and its committees.

"It was further agreed that no additional distribution of the Basic Code will be made to cities until its final revision and adoption by the BOCA.

"The program approved by the Council provides that a definite procedure, acceptable to representatives of organizations identified with industry, will be established for revising the Basic Code in the future and that all proposed Code revisions are to receive final approval from the BOCA Conference.

"Functions of the BOF, under the new program, will include development of an accredited list of acceptable testing laboratories and of uniform methods of testing products, the elimination of duplicate testing of new materials and assemblies, and the dissemination of reports of testing.

"It was the recommendation of the Council's Executive Committee and the joint BOCA-BOF-Council special committee that all of the BOF's technical activities be made self-supporting through the establishment of fixed and adequate fees for BOF examination of test results.

"It was stipulated that appeal from the findings of the BOF consultants could be made to a special three-man committee of qualified building officials selected from the BOCA membership.

"Details of putting the new program into effect are being developed by BOCA-BOF."

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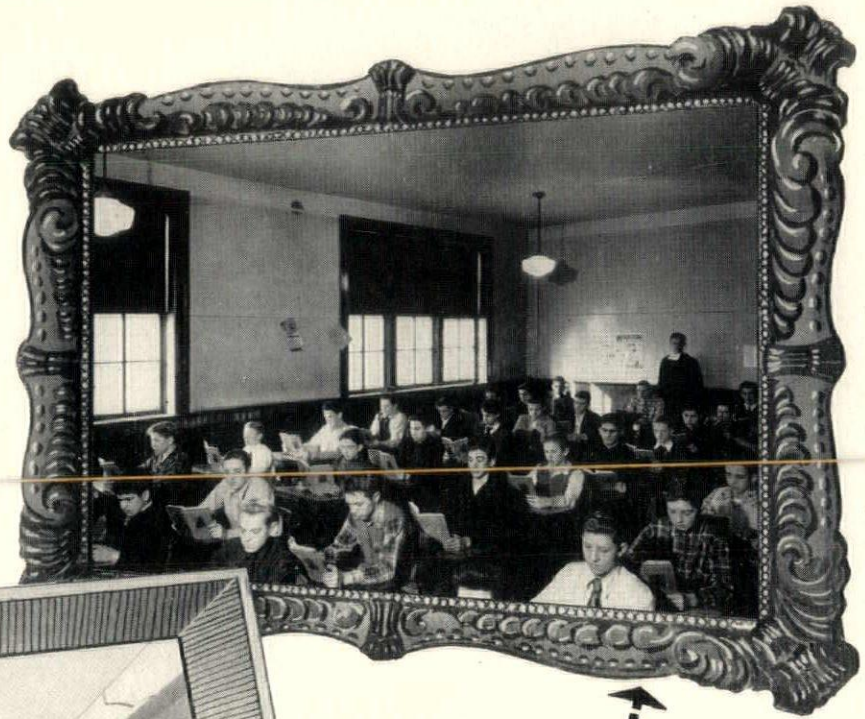
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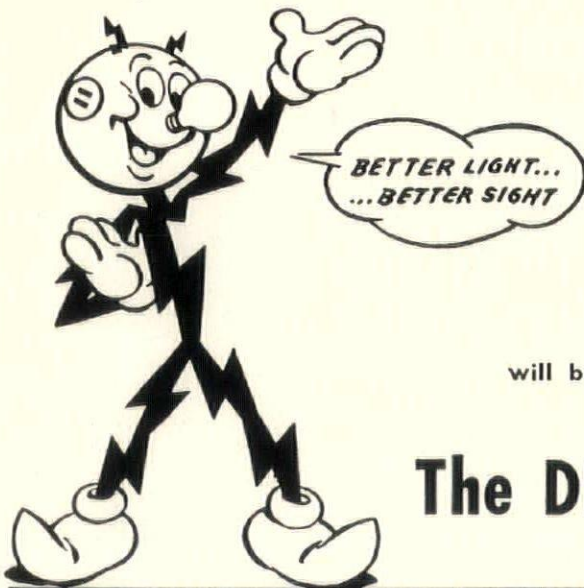
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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 18, 1949

No. 42

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT A.I.A. SEMINARS

Some 175 delegates and guests were registered at the Lincoln Hotel in Indianapolis for the two-day Seminars of the Great Lakes District of The American Institute of Architects, September 30 and October 1, 1949. Kenneth C. Black, District Director of The Institute and General Chairman of the Seminars, had planned the program in detail. The meetings got off to a good start and kept on schedule.

Attending from Michigan, besides Black, were Roger Allen, John O. Blair, Louis Chesnow, Talmage C. Hughes, Elmer Manson and Mrs. Manson, Kenneth Michel, Fred C. O'Dell and Mrs. O'Dell and James A. Spence. A former Grand Rapids architect, an old friend whom we had not seen for a long time, Henry H. Turner, was there. He looks just as handsome as ever, is now with The Austin Company, in Cleveland.

Indianapolis, while not a southern state, is far enough south to be influenced. This is noted in the accents, in cooking and especially in their hospitality. The local committee, including that for the ladies, did a marvelous job. The Indianapolis Committee consisted of Arthur Wupper, Chairman; Leslie F. Ayres, David V. Burns, Donald E. Compton, Robert Frost Daggett, Merritt Harrison, Richard C. Lennox, Edward D. Pierre, Theodore L. Steele and George Caleb Wright.

The program opened with a luncheon for chapter officers at which President Ralph Walker, of The Institute, was guest of honor. Mr. Walker stated that he got more out of such meetings and those with students than he did from any others. He asked for opinions as to the possibility of increased dues, and what additional activities should be entered into at the Octagon, in case dues are increased. A great deal of interesting information was brought out by the various chapter officers.

Following the luncheon Mr. Walker went on the air over Radio station WISH in Indianapolis, an interview on architectural matters, the Institute, orientation, modern houses, skyscrapers, decentralization, etc. He related that in a recent meeting with President Truman, he told Mr. Truman that the two

had two things in common—they are both presidents and both have White Houses that can't be occupied because they are in need of repairs.

Friday afternoon President Walker met with a group of students from Notre Dame, discussed with them their problems and what they would like to have The Institute do.

At the Seminar on Acoustics, Alden Dow was scheduled as presiding officer, however, as he had been called to Arizona, Kenneth Black opened the session and introduced Robert B. Newman, of the Acoustic Laboratory at M.I.T., who spoke on "Architectural Acoustics." He was followed by Mr. Allen Wilson, Assistant Manager of the Acoustical Department of the Celestex Corporation. A discussion period was followed by the showing of the sound film "Quiet Please."

The Indiana Society of Architects was host at a cocktail party Friday evening. At the Banquet Raymond J. Kastendieck, President of the Indiana Society of Architects, welcomed delegates as did Mr. Black. Roger Allen was in his best form as toastmaster and President Ralph Walker gave a most interesting discourse on "Public Relations." Mr. Black stated that he believed that the Institute should sub-

dize such seminars so that they will not burden the local chapters.

Saturday morning C. Curtis Inscho, President of Architects Society of Ohio, presided at a session on Color and Light. Wilbur D. Riddle, A.I.A., of Willoughby, Ohio, was Moderator. Professor Isay Balinkin, of the Department of Experimental Physics, University of Cincinnati, spoke on "Fundamental Principles of Color", and W. H. Kahler Lighting Engineer, of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, on "Coordinating Lighting Design with Architecture." C. M. Cutler, of Nela Park, General Electric Company, discussed "Light and Color Sources."

The final session was presided over by T. D. Luckett, President of the Kentucky Chapter, A.I.A. Mr. Balinkin dealt with "Color Systems and their Application in Architectural Practice". He was followed by Dr. J. S. Long, Chemical Director, Devoe & Reynolds, who spoke on "Recent Developments in Practical Color Systems and Products." There was considerable discussion following all of the sessions.

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BRANSON V. GAMBER

Branson Van Leer Gamber, prominent Detroit architect, died suddenly at the Art Center Hospital in Detroit on October 12, at the age of 56.

Born in Philadelphia, he received his education there at Brown College and at Drexel Institute of Art and Science. In 1941 he received an honorary M.S. degree from Detroit Institute of Technology.

He was employed by Day and Klauder of Philadelphia and in the Detroit offices of Albert Kahn, Donaldson and Meier, George D. Mason, and Robert O. Derrick. Upon his registration to practice architecture in Michigan in 1922, he became an associate of the firm of Derrick & Gamber and was admitted to partnership in 1935. In 1945 Wil-



liam H. Odell was added to the partnership.

Derrick & Gamber had designed many important buildings in the Detroit area, including the Federal Building and Post Office, Recreation Building and Ford Museum at Greenfield Village, Charles Godwin Jennings Hospital, River Terrace Apartments, Detroit Garages, Inc., addition to the Grosse Pointe High School, and the Pierce School in Grosse Pointe.

Mr. Gamber served in World War I in 1918. He was Regional Director of the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935. He had a most active part in the affairs of his professional organizations, had served as Director of The American Institute of Architects, President of its Detroit Chapter and of the Michigan Society of Architects. For five years he directed the work of the Architects Civic Design Group of Metropolitan Detroit. He had been a member of the Detroit City Plan Commission and of the Detroit Housing Commission.

This year the President of The A.I.A. had appointed him a member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

His other affiliations included the Detroit Historical Society, Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Engineering Society of Detroit, Michigan Engineering Society, American Legion, and the Detroit Athletic Club.

In 1944 he was made a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Margaret O'Brien Gamber; two brothers, Cyril and Walter; a sister, Mrs. Eleanor McGillivray, all of Philadelphia; a daughter, Mrs. Francis J. Zaher, of 13721 Sherwood Drive, Oak Park, Michigan, and two grandchildren. His home was at 1516 Vinewood Avenue, Detroit.

Pallbearers were William E. Kapp, William H. Odell, C. William Palmer, Cyril Edward Schley, Walter Torbet and William Wallich.

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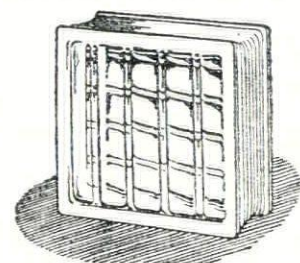
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PETER FRANTZ TOURS EUROPE

Peter Frantz, son of Robert B. Frantz, A.I.A., and Mrs. Frantz, of Saginaw, has left for Europe, where he will travel and study for several months in England, France, Italy and other countries.

He is accompanied by Charles Moore, formerly of Battle Creek and now of San Francisco, who is on a Booth Fellowship from the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan.

At the suggestion of Professor Roger Bailey, under whom the two studied, they will make motion pictures for use in history courses at the U. of M. and at the University of Utah, where Professor Bailey is now Head of the Department of Architecture.

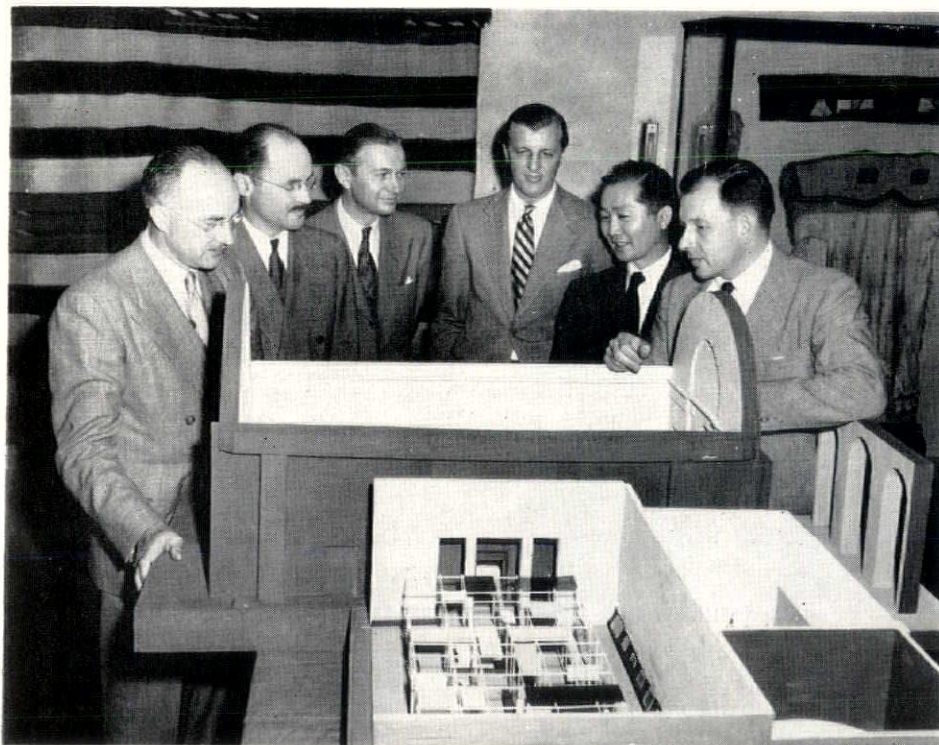
Peter was graduated from the University of Michigan last February and has since worked in the office of the firm of Frantz and Spence.



The Plexiglas exhibit as it appeared at the recent Store Modernization Show in New York. This exhibit forms the basis for the Plexiglas Store Show which will be at the Detroit Leland Hotel Oct. 27 and 28. Architects are invited to attend.

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The Executive Committee for the exhibition, "For Modern Living" opening at the Detroit Institute of Arts, September 11 examines a scale model. Reading left to right. Leroy E. Kieffer, chief designer of General Motors product and exhibit studios; E. P. Richardson, director of the art institute; Alexander Girard, director of the exhibit; William D. Laurie, vice-president of Maxon, Inc.; Minoru Yamasaki, architect and designer and Eero Saarinen, architect.

The exhibit will close on November 20.

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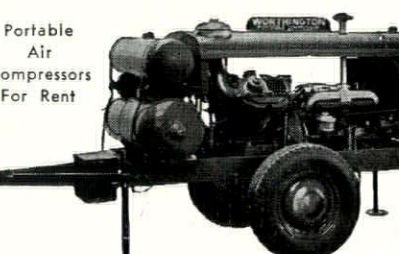
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Edited by E. J. Brunner, Secty.-Mgr.,
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BUILDING OUTLOOK FOR 1950

It is difficult to see wherein construction market conditions in 1950 will be radically different from those which have prevailed this year, Thomas S. Holden, president of the F. W. Dodge Corp., stated in an address before the annual meeting of the Producers' Council being held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, Sept. 29.

"It does not yet appear that a satisfactory base has been laid for a general expansion of the economy over a broad front or for a major upsurge in construction volume," Mr. Holden said. "My present thinking about next year's activity is highly tentative and my remarks will have to be equally so."

"At this moment it looks as if 1950 will be in the main a year of further adjustment. There is reason to doubt whether the current upswing in activity can be viewed as the beginning of a sustained upward movement. Commodity prices, business activity and construction are likely to have mixed trends rather than trends that will be uniformly up or down. In general I would expect the year's volume of public building and engineering work to increase somewhat over 1949, the total of private construction to decline moderately. As a result, total contract volume may be moderately less, in dollars and in physical units, than this year's total volume."

"In the residential field, public housing projects will obviously increase and private housing activity is rather more likely to fall off moderately than to increase in any spectacular way. If rent control actually comes to an end there will be some adjustment of rental housing occupancy tendency to lessen overall demand for rented space. At some stage the currently reduced rate of new family formations will result in a slackening of housing demand; this factor could affect next year's total of new dwelling units."

"What the continued buyers' market means to the investing public is, probably, a gradual lowering of construction costs. What it means for producers of materials is an increased urge toward improvement of products, new products, lowering of costs and, above all, progressive improvement in analysis of market potentials and of marketing methods. In terms of reestablishment of the buyers' market and return of competition, it looks as if the postwar adjustment is reasonably complete. Adjustment of marketing practices has made progress, but that is a continuing process likely to persist so long as competitive conditions continue. The production men who carried the ball during the backlog period have passed it on to the marketing men."

"When I appraise next year as one

of moderate change in construction market conditions, mixed trends and continuing readjustment, I imply that forces that will be at work in 1950 will prepare the way for some new development thereafter. Last year the American people invested only 8.3 per cent of national income in new construction. In the peak years of the late 1920's they so invested over 14 per cent. We are currently building to meet immediate and pressing needs; we are building very little for future needs.

"By its high competence and its great flexibility the construction industry has demonstrated its capacity to produce all the new building and engineering structures demanded by the country's expanding needs. Construction's most vital job has always been provision of the physical facilities required by our dynamic, growing economy. Every improvement the industry can make in materials, marketing, design, construction methods and reduction of costs will contribute to the over-all objective."

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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 25, 1949

No. 43

SERGE CHERMAYEFF TO SPEAK HERE NOV. 2

On Wednesday, November 2, at 8:30 P.M. Serge Chermayeff, internationally known architect and President of Chicago's Institute of Design, will give a talk at The Detroit Institute of Arts. He has chosen the provocative topic: "Are Our Houses Modern?" This will be the second in the series of five lectures sponsored by The Metropolitan Art Association. The first two are planned to coordinate with the exhibition "For Modern Living", which continues at the Art Institute until November 20. Anticipating as large a crowd as attended the Marcel Breuer lecture on October 12th, the Association has secured the Institute's large auditorium for the occasion.

Serge Chermayeff was born in Russia. He received his earliest training at the Royal Drawing School in London and later at Harrow School. Thereafter he took up architectural and art studies on the Continent. After working with several London firms, he began independent architectural practice in London in 1930 and was a partner of Erich Mendelsohn from 1933 to 1936. Since 1937 he has been practicing independently in England, California and New York City. He was chairman of the Department of Design at Brooklyn College from 1942 to 1946 and has been President of the Institute of Design in Chicago since 1946.

In England and the United States, Chermayeff has designed many buildings for commercial, educational, recreational, and domestic uses. One of his better-known structures, which he built in partnership with Mendelsohn, is the De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea, England.

Mr. Chermayeff has served on special committees of the R.I.B.A., the Council of the Society Industrial Artists, the Design and Industry Association, the International Congress of Modern Architects, the Modern Architectural Research Group, and the faculty of the European Mediterranean Academy. He is consultant of the North West Regional Council and the National Resources Planning Board. He is a founder and member of the Executive Council of the American Society of Planners and Architects, and is a consultant of the Museum of Modern Art and the



Mr. Chermayeff

Chicago Plan Commission. He is also on the Editorial Board of the American Federation of Art.

In addition to his pre-eminence in the field of architecture and city planning, Chermayeff has also achieved distinction in the field of industrial design,

Although primarily an architect, Serge Chermayeff is also noted as an industrial designer and a city planner.

He has practiced architecture in England, California and recently in New York City.

His experience as a teacher of design as well as a practitioner makes his lecture of interest to architects, draftsmen and students.

where his creations include textiles, lighting fixtures, hardware, wood and metal furniture, chinaware, brochures, layout, etc.

The Metropolitan Art Association, under the direction of Mr. W. Hawkins Ferry, its President, deserves the support of all architects in this area. Each year the Association brings outstanding architects and others in the field of art to Detroit as speakers on its series of programs. There are three architects on the Association's Board.

At the Marcel Breuer lecture on October 12 there was an overflow attendance and it was necessary to change to the large auditorium at The Detroit Institute of Arts, which was filled.

There are still four lectures left in the series and the price of three dollars for season tickets is less than the single admission price for the four.

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PROPOSED STATE CAPITOL BUILDING GROUP

By Amedeo Leone, A.I.A., Vice-President, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers. A talk before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., Sept. 21, 1949.

In 1944 the firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc. was commissioned by the State, through the Capitol Building Commission, to make a survey covering the following objectives:

To survey office space at present occupied by the various agencies which could, by reason of their functions, be accommodated in a Capitol Group.

To estimate the probable requirements and space for these agencies for a definite future period.

To analyze their use and to establish a reasonable classification of space in order to formulate appropriate recommendations for the housing of these agencies.

To analyze the land requirements for the housing of the agencies to be accommodated in the Capitol group and make recommendations accordingly.

For the purpose of estimating both building and land requirements, a maximum period of 10 years was used. It was obvious that it would be uneconomical to provide greatly excessive building space against too-distant future requirements. However, it was considered wise to extend future provisions to the obtaining of adjoining land on which further buildings might be erected when necessary in the years to come.

With these instructions and following a thorough survey of the existing conditions and new requirements, we prepared the following recommendations.

PRESENT CAPITOL BUILDING. This building is over 60 years old and of non-fireproof construction. The building has a distinguished quality and, because of its historical association with the life and activities of the state, a considerable sentimental value. However, it is badly overcrowded to the extent that it cannot be used efficiently. Parts of the building which were never intended for offices are being used for that purpose. The House and the Senate are especially in need of additional committee-room facilities.

The Law Library, recognized as one of the best in the country, is inappropriately housed, subject to destruction by fire and sorely in need of considerable additional space.

It is proposed to remove from this building the Law Library, the Supreme Court and the offices of the Attorney General and install them in the proposed new Supreme Court Building. Other present offices which could be better placed elsewhere should also be removed in order to provide additional committee room facilities for the Legislature. A small assembly room accommodating approximately 250 people is also planned for the Capitol Building. This will accommodate larger committees, groups called together by the various state agencies and provide facilities needed at the opening of bid proposals.



Mr. Leone, a native of Italy, was educated at Cooper Union in New York, and Beaux Arts Atelier. He was employed by Trowbridge and Livingston in New York, 1912-13; by Albert Kahn, 1913-14; Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, 1914 to date.

He is now Vice-President in charge of Design for S. H. & G.

It is planned to retain only such offices as are required for the functioning of the legislative bodies and administrative heads.

PRESENT OFFICE BUILDING. This is a comparatively new structure, having been erected in 1922; is fireproof and in good condition. It represents a considerable investment and is suited for its designed use; i.e., office space. At present it also houses the State Library (not to be confused with the Law Library) in cramped quarters. Until recently, it also housed, in an unsuitable manner, part of the Museum of the Historical Commission. The building at present is overcrowded.

It is recommended that the State Library be removed from this building and be installed in a building of its own. The space thus vacated should be reconverted to the office use for which it was originally intended. Since the location of the present office building is somewhat remote from the Capitol Building and the projected new office group, it is proposed to house in it those agencies which are more or less complete units in themselves and which do not require constant nor close contact with the Capitol Building.

PROPOSED SUPREME COURT BUILDING. In this building it is proposed to house the Supreme Court, the Law Library, the Attorney General and certain other allied agencies. The Supreme Court, being a very important function of our State Government, along with these other agencies, would be represented in a more dignified and distinguished manner in a building of its own. It should be prominently located and made an outstanding feature of the Capitol Group.

PROPOSED HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES BUILDING. The name implies its use. At present the

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Historical Commission has scattered offices in the State Office Building. The Museum, formerly housed in the same building, is now only partly housed in a residence on Washington Avenue. Other museum material is at present stored in a privately owned garage and the archives collection, in the State Garage. If this agency is to function in a useful manner the archives and museum material should be arranged in an orderly way in a suitable building. For efficient use of archives it is now universally recognized that this material should be housed in space especially designed for this purpose.

The Commission has an excellent nucleus of museum material pertaining to a state as rich in historical lore as any in the Union, which should be available for study since it has in it great possibilities for depicting the State's progress in agriculture, mining, lumber, industry and recreation. The character of this activity, if retained, fully justifies a separate building, conveniently accessible to the general public. The Historical Commission has set up an expansion program covering the next 20 years and the building should

See LEONE, page 6

NATIONAL PLUMBING CODE

A uniform national plumbing code is on the way, according to *Plumbing and Heating Business*, a trade paper. Arrangements are now being made for a conference of the five national organizations which have been at work on plumbing codes. The initiative in calling the meeting of all interested groups is being taken by the American Standards Association and the United States Department of Commerce.

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STORM WINDOWS AND CONDENSATION

By MARSHALL V. NOECKER,
Kaufmann Corporation, Detroit

Storm windows save heat, reduce drafts, increase comfort and markedly reduce frosting and sweating of the inner windows. However, the belief that a good storm window will eliminate all condensation simply is not true. The basic purpose of a storm window is to provide insulation. Its influence on condensation, when beneficial, is a by-product of its insulating value. Therefore, we will briefly consider how storm windows save heat.

Glass is a poor heat insulator, so poor that the thickness of the glass is of no importance in holding heat in the house, but a layer of air clings to each side of the glass and air is a very good insulator. With no wind the blanket of air on each side of the glass is equivalent in insulating value to 3" of brick. Wind cuts down the thickness of this blanket. In a fifteen mile wind the blanket on the windy side is only one-fourth as thick as in no wind. For this reason, more heat escapes from the house through the glass on a windy day. If a storm window is installed, the wind is prevented from reaching the inner glass so that instead of one full blanket and one thin one, there are three full blankets and one thin one to hold heat. In calm weather, of course, there are four full blankets in place of two. Besides the loss of heat by direct transfer through the glass, there is a leakage of air through the cracks in any movable window. This leakage amounts to 175 cubic feet per hour through an average size window of the very finest and most expensive manufacture. In a plain unweatherstripped window of average fit, this leakage amounts to more than 1,000 cubic feet per hour. The installation of storm windows with movable sash will reduce this leakage but it cannot be expected to entirely eliminate it. However, it is very inexpensive to heat the amount of air in the average house. The cost of heating a houseful of air is approximately \$.02. The chief reason for reducing air leakage is to reduce drafts and the resulting "cold spots". A large part of the draft felt in a room is due to the cooling of air in passing the windows. This cool air is heavier than the warm air in the rest of the room so it falls to the floor and flows across the room. The colder the window is, the colder and stronger the draft. Moving air feels colder than still air and so it is necessary to keep a drafty room at a higher temperature. This, of course, is a waste of fuel to say nothing of the discomfort.

Condensation on windows is due to warm moisture-laden air being cooled to the point where it can no longer carry all its moisture. If the temperature of the glass is above freezing, the moisture condenses as dew. If the tempera-

ture is below freezing, frost appears. In the absence of storm windows the glass of the house window can get very cold in severe weather, resulting in a heavy deposit of frost which later melts, causing damage to curtains, woodwork and plaster walls. Installation of storm windows will eliminate condensation on the inner windows in all but very extreme cold weather, provided the humidity inside the house is kept at a reasonable level. In fact, condensation on a house window fitted with a storm window is a danger signal, warning that the humidity in the house is high enough to cause unseen condensation within the house walls where it can rot out the wood structure or cause cracking plaster and peeling paint.

Condensation on the inner surface of the storm window is an entirely different problem. The moisture which condenses on the cold glass of the storm window comes from inside the house through the cracks of the inner window. As it is impossible to entirely eliminate this leakage it is impossible to entirely eliminate the resulting condensation. For instance, on the downwind side of the house air will inevitably escape from the house to the outside. The storm window, in fulfilling its function of holding heat within the house, is necessarily very cold. Nothing can prevent the moisture in the escaping air from condensing on this cold surface.

Except in severe weather, however, good weatherstripping of the inner window plus adequate ventilation of the space between the windows to the outside will keep this condensation below the level of a nuisance. This ventilation should be sufficient to dilute the moist air leaking through the inner window with dry air from outside but should not be great enough to allow wind from outside to cause rapid movement of the air in the space between the windows. Usually about one square inch of opening is sufficient, and this will cause no appreciable loss of insulating value.

There are three conditions which cause leakage of warm air into the space between the windows:

1. Wind against the opposite side of the house.
2. Chimney Effect. Because the cold air outside the house is heavier than the warm air inside, cold air is forced in through the basement and first floor windows and warm air out through the second floor and attic windows.
3. Higher Vapor Pressure Inside the House. In winter the outside air is always dryer than the inside air. Therefore, there is a higher pressure of water vapor inside. This results in a flow of water vapor through the window cracks, regardless of wind or chimney-effect.

Often condensation will occur in the morning on the sunny side of the house due to the sun warming the woodwork

or masonry between the windows and evaporating moisture which had previously condensed there. This moisture again condenses against the cold outer glass of the storm window.

While it may be annoying to be unable to see clearly through a frosted storm window, there is no danger of damage when this frost melts, as it is really outside the house where the masonry and the painted wood surfaces are not subject to damage from water.

To summarize, storm windows save heat, increase comfort and reduce but do not eliminate condensation. They DO transfer condensation from inside to outside the house. The best procedure to reduce any remaining condensation to a minimum is not to make the storm window tighter, but to make the inner window as tight as possible with good weatherstripping and to ventilate the air space by keeping the storm window not too tight. This procedure does not reduce the effectiveness of the storm window in saving heat flow through the glass.

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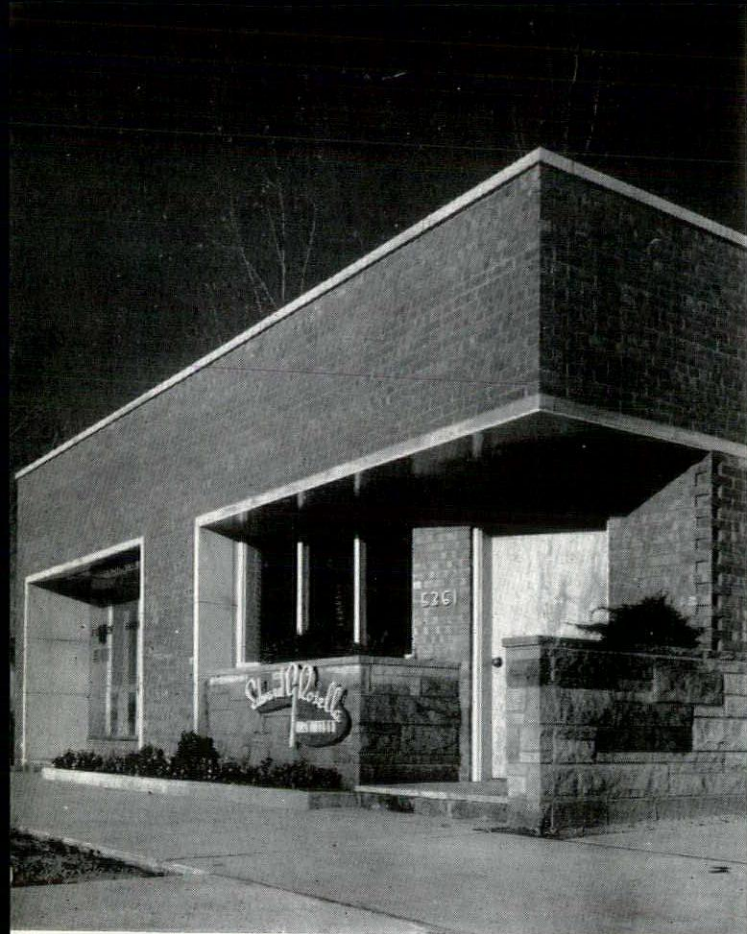
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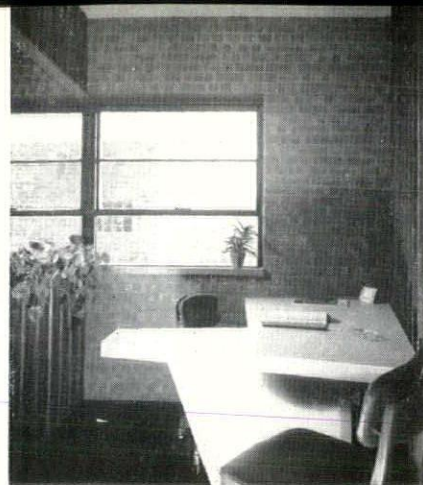
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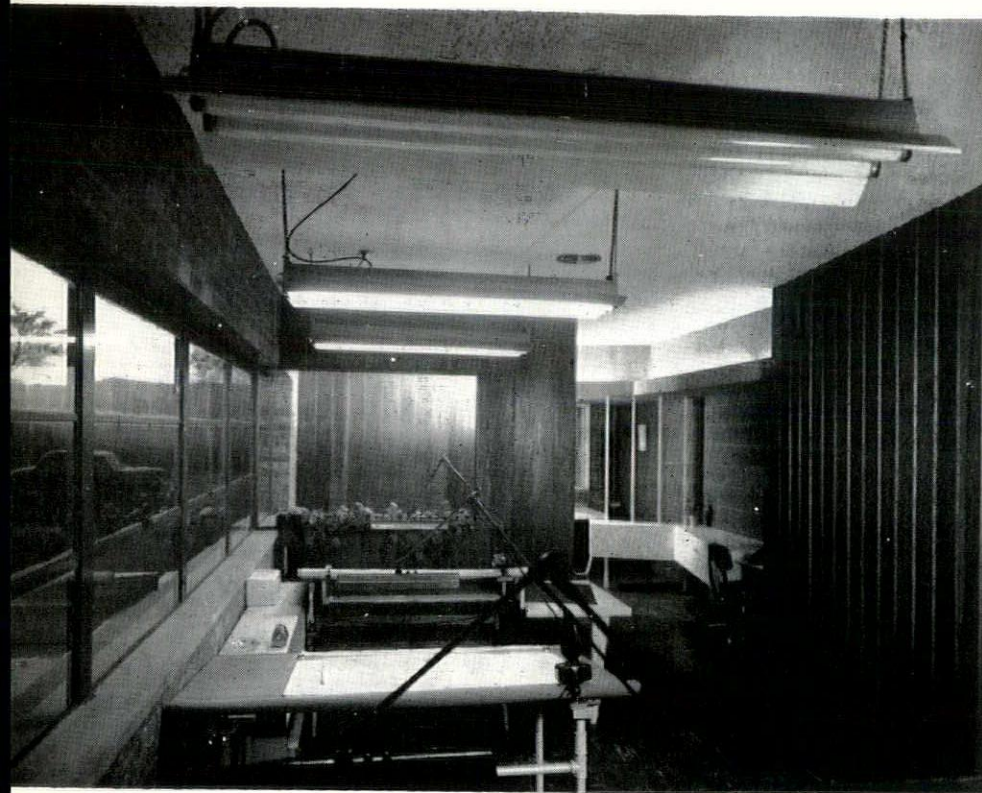
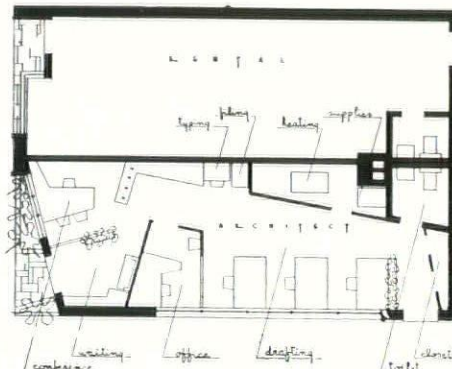
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ARCHITECT DESIGNS EXPANSION

PROBLEM

To design an architect's office in a building large enough to contain a separate rental unit that later could be used by the architect if the need for expansion occurred.

SOLUTION

The office is built on a site 40' wide by 100' deep. The building is 30' wide by 42' deep. A 10' space along one side has two advantages—(1) windows are located in the wall next to this space, (2) access to the rear portion of the site is provided from the street.

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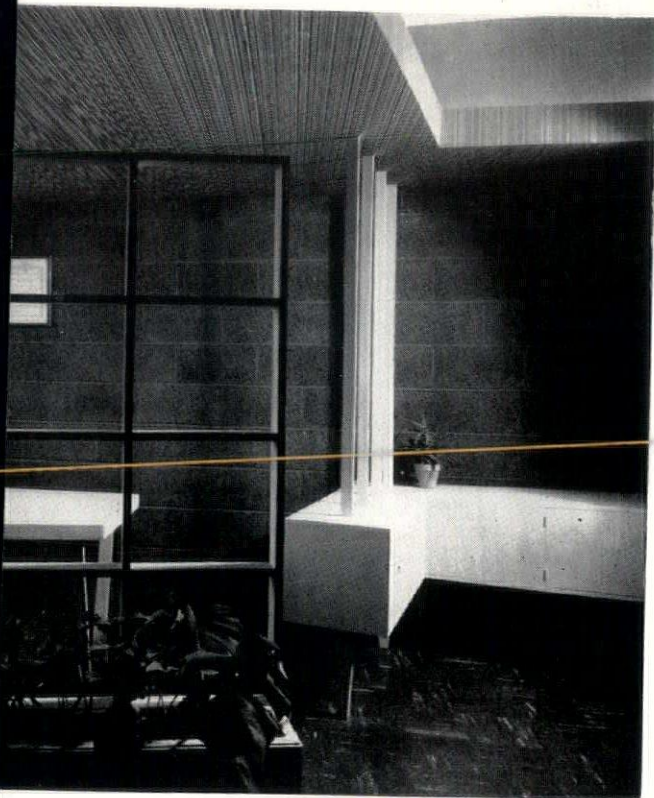
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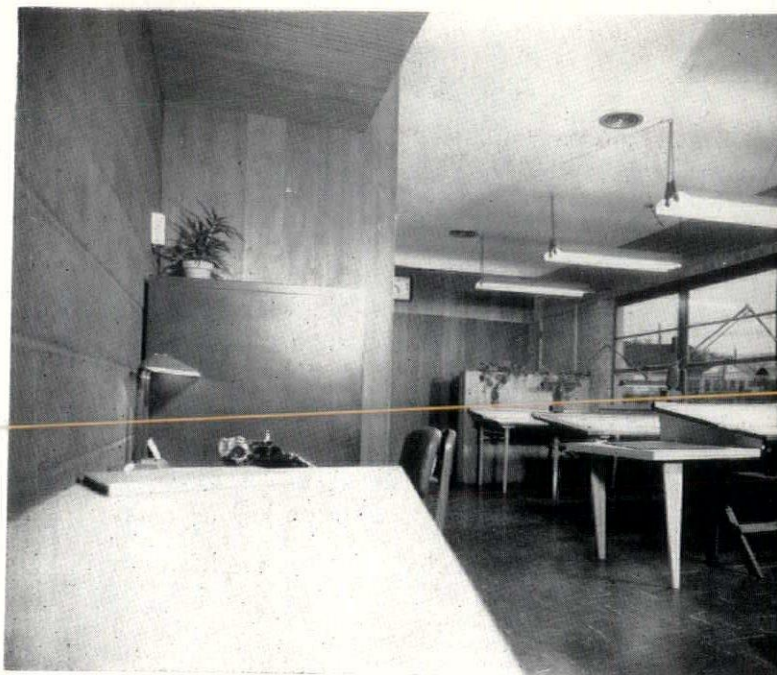
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CONFERENCE AREA



DRAFTING ROOM FROM FRONT

OFFICES IN BUILDING FOR RENTAL INCOME AND FUTURE 61 EAST OUTER DRIVE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

By EDWARD GIOVANNI ROSELLA, A.I.A.



The partitions within the office constructed after the finished ceiling were in place. Because construction, the office plan is within itself and in relation to the rental unit.

The office is small and the space was to the fullest extent. The warm natural materials were combined with the cool colors of painted to create a definite effect. The bricks used in the walls are a blend. The ceiling is covered with white acoustical tile. The wall of the office from the rental unit is of cinder block and painted a light green. The walls of the private office heating and supplies room,

and the closet are of redwood siding in a natural finish, and applied vertically. The doors leading to the heating and supplies room and to the closet space are of redwood siding, designed and constructed so as not to break the continuity of the wall surface. The floor is covered with green asphalt tile. The ceiling over the conference room is dropped to 7' and covered with striated plywood in a natural finish. The furniture, most of which was designed and built in the office, is finished in a light grey color.

CONCLUSION

On the plan, it will be seen that the drafting tables are placed with the light

coming in from the right. This was done for several reasons—(1) to face the draftsmen away from distracting street traffic, (2) to allow one telephone to be readily accessible from the private office and the architect's drafting table, (3) to allow the light to strike the right hand edge of the triangles, this being the edge used in drawing by the draftsmen in this office. The lamp in the upper left hand corner of the drafting table is used whenever lettering at right angles to the bottom edge of the paper is required.

After occupying the building for over five months, we find it a very convenient, comfortable, and pleasant place in which to work.

Photos by John Coburn, Detroit

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LEONE from page two

be planned to ultimately accommodate the estimated growth.

PROPOSED STATE LIBRARY. This Library, as noted before, is at present inadequately housed in the State Office Building. Expected expansion of library services for communities throughout the State and the regular increase of some 25,000 volumes per year, together with the present overcrowding, justifies considerable expansion. Because of the nature of the services and the amount of space required, a separate building planned for its specific use is recommended.

Our State Office survey showed that for the next 10 years it would require a net office area of about 835,000 square feet including 235,000 square feet in the present Capitol Building and present State Office Building; 38,000 square feet would be allotted to the new Supreme Court Building, 46,000 square feet to the Historical Museum and Archives Building, 142,000 square feet for a new State Library Building, leaving a net total of about 374,000 square feet for new office space.

The survey also showed that the State at present occupies rented space in 16 buildings. The total rental area amounting to nearly one-half of the present-used office space. These office buildings would have to be designed to express a dignity in keeping with their importance as administrative offices of a great state. They would have to be planned to recognize efficient utilization of space consistent with good office building practice.

CAR-POOL GARAGE. With the proposed plan of offices being in a Capitol group, we recommended that a car-pool garage be constructed conveniently accessible to all buildings in the group and that it be designed to accommodate approximately 500 cars with facilities for minor repairing, maintaining and servicing.

PRUDDEN AUDITORIUM. The Prudden Auditorium, while it is not a State-owned building, must, however, be recognized as a member of the Capitol Group because of its location. Owing to the nature of the grant to the City of Lansing, any new building for the same purpose can be expected to be in the same location. If the present build-

ing is retained, a study should be made with the objective of remodelling the exterior so as to harmonize architecturally with the Capitol Group.

CAR-PARKING PROVISIONS. The need for parking facilities on or near the Capitol site is at present acute and, with the contemplated additions, the situation will become worse. Officials and also visitors having business in the Capitol group should be provided with suitable parking facilities. A logical method of providing suitable parking is the acquisition of the land required for the ultimate building program. Until the program is completed this land can be used for parking purposes. When the proposed buildings are completed parking provisions could be provided outside of the proposed Capitol development. At that time this parking may be in the nature of open-lot parking or open-deck structures operated either by the State or by private interests. This latter parking, when that time arrives, would be only for the parking required for State employees. Other parking should be within the Capitol site.

Parking in connection with Capitol activities comprises three types and is proposed to be accommodated as follows:

1. **EMPLOYEES' PARKING.** It is estimated that parking for the number of employees to be accommodated in the ultimate Capitol group will be between 1,000 and 1,500 cars. Parking space for this purpose could be provided initially as outlined before, in open lots on the Capitol site and ultimately without the Capitol grounds when the volume of parking warrants.

2. **EXECUTIVES' PARKING.** Covered parking facilities for agency executives is proposed in the nature of underground parking within the area of the new office structures. This area, will accommodate approximately 200 cars. For convenience, it could have direct underground connection with the Capitol building through suitable fire cutoffs. The underground parking in the area of the new Office Building site could also be made available for members of the Legislature when that body is in session.

3. **VISITORS' PARKING.** This should be provided as near to the various buildings as possible. It is proposed to set aside a section of the employees' parking lots for this purpose except that, in the case of the Capitol building, parking would be provided on the Capitol site adjacent to Walnut Street. Since executive parking will be provided elsewhere, it is expected this parking site need not be very large.

Parking at Auditorium—Since parking facilities for persons using the Prudden Auditorium would be desirable, it is recommended that the land west of that building to Pine Street be acquired for that purpose. This should be a City-of-Lansing endeavor and is under consideration at this time. Because gen-

erally the auditorium is used in the evening, this same parking space by arrangement could be used at other times for State parking purposes. The proposed site development recognizes this possibility.

While our survey was in progress the State began negotiations for the purchase of four city blocks immediately west of the Capitol from Walnut to Pine and Allegan to Ottawa—Ottawa being the north boundary. Our early study showed that this area was inadequate to accommodate all required facilities. However, the final scheme confined itself within the allotted area by the elimination of the State Library and parking facilities being confined outside and adjoining the four-block area. In general, the preliminary site plans were based on the following

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In the study of this problem the following factors were recognized as being fixed or desirable:

It was deemed necessary that the site plan should indicate an integration or tying together of all buildings in the group and that the buildings be in scale with the environs.

Overcrowding of buildings on land must be avoided so as to complement the open area about the Capitol.

No new building should be so large in mass as to detract from the Capitol Building.

The Capitol Building should be the focal point of the group and its existing approaches recognized.

While this program provides building facilities for a number of years to come, the site arrangement should permit any future expansion beyond that period to be integrated with the existing group.

Closing of city highway arteries through the development should be limited to no more than one street in the north and south direction; either Walnut or Chestnut Streets; preferably Chestnut Street, since this is already closed back of the present State Office Building.

The site of the Prudden Auditorium must be maintained for its present use and hence is unavailable for any of the proposed buildings.

The present postoffice building because of its location should be recognized as part of the Capitol Group.

As further consideration to this development, we suggested that an effort be made to interest City and County

authorities in developing a plan of dignified approach to the Capitol.

The Michigan Avenue approach is one that has taken on the appearance of disintegration. While the business buildings constructed between Grand Avenue and the Capitol can probably not be changed, the remaining section of Michigan Avenue to East Lansing could and should be studied from a standpoint of controlling building lines, types of building and landscaping. Other approaches should be studied in order that developments can be controlled.

Landscaping on the Capitol Site should be related to these approaches and in the development of this program the present fine trees on the Capitol grounds should be preserved, but not to the point where the present landscaping plan bears no relation to the adopted site-development plan.

After months of study and many meetings with the State Capitol Building Commission, we presented a report with our recommendations on the requirements for the expansion of the site and building facilities of the Michigan State Capitol Group.

In February 1945 the State Capitol Building Commission reported to the Governor and members of the Legislature on this progress and selection of the plan as a basis for the development which could be accomplished on the land owned by the State or in progress of acquisition.

With the acceptance of this program by the Legislature, a State Office Building Commission was established in 1945 and we were then instructed by the new Commission to proceed with the final development of the accepted scheme. This was completed some time in the summer of 1946 and accepted at that time.

Very few of the states of the Union can boast of a fine capitol set up. Some indeed find that they are possessed of a site for their governmental seat which is inadequate to provide for the least complex of their functions and which may not be expanded because of surrounding conditions.

The foresight indicated by the Capitol Building Commission in undertaking this survey of the probable future course and growth of state functions, before proceeding with isolated buildings to meet the pressing needs of the moment, can well be rewarded in a governmental center which might yield to none in beauty and efficient use of space.

Following Mr. Leone's lecture much interesting and valuable information was brought out in a question-and-answer period.

INSPECTION TRIP

The Detroit Edison Company extends to architects and other members of the building industry a cordial invitation to attend an Open House to be held in the New Addition to its Trenton Channel Power Plant.

The dates: October 25, 26 and 27.

The time: From 2 until 9 p.m.

The program will include a tour of inspection through this new \$30,000,000 project, an explanation of how electricity is made and transmitted, various exhibits, and a close-up view of our new 100,000 kw turbo-generator . . . the largest in the Detroit Edison system and one of the largest in the nation.

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If you would like additional information, please call WOODWARD 2-2100 and ask for Open House Information.

Architects should find this inspection trip an interesting experience. They are cordially invited to attend.

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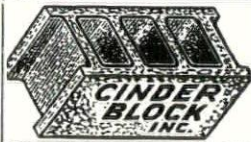
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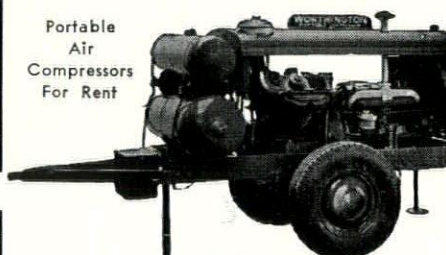
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MORE TIME TO FIGURE PLANS

If we may assume that giving the best advantages possible to the owner also helps the architect, we can go further and say that it is strongly to the interest of every architect to allow adequate time for bidders to figure. For certain it is the lack of time that frequently prevents some "right people" from bidding and prevents some people from bidding right. Errors in bidding rarely help the owner. If a bid is too low, the owner stands a good chance of being hurt. If bids are too high, the owner loses that much.

Owners frequently press the architect for time. There is the fairly familiar situation where the owner dallies a long time before giving the architect the go-ahead and then insists that the architect get the plans ready day before yesterday and get the job started the day before that.

Such an owner should be told the facts by the architect, but it is unfortunately true that "the customer is always right" prevails in many architects' offices—and there is competition among architects.

We have heard, in a second-handed way, of course, that an architect here and there says, "Cut down their time to figure and someone will leave out a floor." We close our ears to such gossip. We mean this seriously. We have met many architects. Some are somewhat dumb even as you and I, but an architect has at least weathered stiff requirements in education, and being in business he is constantly being sharpened.

We have heard, also, that some architects feel that to cut the bidding time is to cut the chances of collusion among bidders. Wish we could say that we close our ears to this too, but we can't say it in this case. We have heard it too directly. In fact, we got it "right out of the horse's mouth."

Our answer when we were told this, remains our answer now. We said, "if any parties want to collude, they have their scheme laid before applying it to any certain job, and the less the time given for bidding, the better their scheme will work." It stands to reason this is true, because the less the time for bidding the less time for getting together accurate reasonable figures on the part of anyone. Collusion thrives best on obfuscation. Error and collusion are apt bedfellows.

After an architect has sweated out a plan and panted and sweated out a specification, he should be solicitous about the immediate future of his brain child. We do not mean by this that he should cuss loud enough to be heard for a mile if a set of plans comes back to him dog-eared from use. We mean that he should recognize that what he

has worked on for months is not just an ABC primer to the many men who must figure on the hundreds of separate items.

In the first place, he must recognize the complexity of the industry. Some man must "take off" the locks and hinges and give his figure to someone else who must figure on installing the doors, and before the doors can be installed there must be some openings in walls and, therefore, walls which someone must figure. And then, on top of it, some one must paint the darned door. All these parts and bits must funnel up through the channels of the industry and at last add up in a general bid of \$45678.91 for the complete architectural part of the job.

And on top of this, there are what are known as competitors, good and bad, figuring each of these parts and bits and handing their figures on to contractors along the path, and these contractors, of all degrees from skunks to white haired boys with orchids and sprouting wings, pass them along up the line to generals who are likewise rated by their fellow-man and their descendants and underlings and serfs, etc. It is a complicated deal.

And all along the line there is trouble in obtaining a set of plans. People will almost fight for the right to bid. That is, some people will. But when a set of plans pushes its way to the attention of the industry and the word goes around that bids are due in five days, many of the best in the industry just simply can't touch the job. But if it is strongly pressed upon them to put in a figure they will put it in. Would you take a chance in being low in such a case?

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